

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE COMBINED
DISTRICTS

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year
1972 .

- (3) HENLEY BOROUGH
 - (1) BICESTER URBAN DISTRICT
 - (6) THAME URBAN DISTRICT
 - (2) BULLINGDON RURAL DISTRICT
 - (4) HENLEY RURAL DISTRICT
 - (5) PLOUGHLEY RURAL DISTRICT
-

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Annual Report 1972.

Order of sections:

Preamble, including Milk and Water supplies.

Vital Statistics.

Borough of Henley-on-Thames.

Bicester Urban District.

Thame Urban District.

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Henley Rural District.

Ploughley Rural District.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE COMBINED DISTRICTS
1972

To the Mayor, Chairmen, Aldermen and Councillors of the Constituent Authorities.

My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report, drawn up in accordance with Circular 1/73 issued by the Department of Health and Social Security.

The publishing is late this year for two reasons. Primarily the extra work involved with reorganisation of both the National Health Service and Local Government and particularly the collaboration arrangements between the two bodies has kept the author well occupied. Secondly there has been a conscious effort to delay in order to acquire a clearer picture of what the future might hold.

There has been no indication as to whether this is to be the last Annual Report for South Oxon. Yet it is a fact that by the earliest time the basic information is available to produce the next report the South Oxon Districts will no longer exist and your Medical Officer will be employed by the National Health Service.

As an environmental entity the Combined Districts presents nearly all the facets of human activities within a geographical area of some 360 square miles or a quarter of a million acres. Viewed from space the outline is somewhat like a dumb-bell in shape, 40 miles long, north to south, with the central construction mainly formed by the eastern border of the City of Oxford. The northern section, which is that part of the county east of the River Cherwell, is predominantly flat good quality agricultural land. The natural centre for this section is the market town of Bicester, which also contains some light industry. Apart from sustaining a large garrison of H.M. Forces in the immediate vicinity, Bicester has the distinction of increasing its population by 50% over the past 5 years.

The southern section of the dumb-bell has the River Thames as its western and southern borders as well as Reading County Borough. That part adjoining the City of Oxford contains a large part of the industrial complex associated with the motor industry. South and east of Oxford the area is once again rural, being primarily good agricultural land. The section is bisected east to west by the limestone escarpment of the Chilterns. Progressing southwards through this area of outstanding natural beauty one passes through beech forests, agricultural land, stockbroker belts and commuter development to the borders of Reading and the Municipal Borough of Henley-on-Thames.

The Combined Districts contains six airfields, four of which are military, and there are two cement factories. The whole area is served by two water authorities; reports of their Chief Engineers are included in this report.

This description is presented for two reasons. Firstly to show the great variety of environment monitored by this office, and also to draw attention to the possibility of boundary changes under Local Government reorganisation eliminating the Combined Districts as an entity.

The population of this area is now 155,900 which is more than double the 1947 figure and almost exactly equals the then total administrative county population. The Infant Mortality Rate is 13.3 per thousand live births as compared with a national figure of 17 per thousand. The crude overall death rate is 8.3 per thousand compared with the national figure of 12.1. These figures combined with a live birth rate of 15.6 per thousand where the national figure is 14.8 indicate a healthy, expanding area where one can expect to live that little bit longer. This is exemplified by the fact that deaths increased by one over the year whilst the population increased by 2,750.

Whilst these figures are very good one or two sobering facts emerge. 292 deaths were due to cancer, i.e. a quarter of all deaths. Of those more than one third occurred before the age of retirement. One specific disease in this group has made its inexorable yearly increase. I refer to cancer of the lung. 82 deaths of which more than a third occurred before retirement age. The Chief Medical Officer has described this as "the most preventable disease." The figures demonstrate the folly of man (and woman) who becomes habituated to tobacco.

Cancer prevention, control and even cure in some cases is a documented fact. An avoidance of the known causes and an early detection of malignancy has a marked effect upon the incidence and course of this disease. But unless the public is aware of the causes and accepts the evidence that the profession has made available there can be little alteration in the present figures. This is just the field where Health Education could be of enormous impact. However Health Education has always been regarded as the Cinderella of Medicine. Its poor showing to date is almost entirely due to lack of capital, staff, equipment, expertise and accommodation. If resources were made available to this sector of preventive medicine then public attitudes are more likely to be reorientated. For instance, we all know people who say they would rather not know what disease they have got. Indeed, many state they would not attend their general practitioner with a complaint in case it was found that cancer was the cause! Quite a large proportion of these people freely admit that their attitudes are not rational. Fear is very powerful, it feeds upon ignorance, misconception and historical tragedies. Modern medicine has made considerable technical advances. Investigations are less painful and more sure of effective diagnosis. The earlier diagnosis enables the treatment to be more effective. And again, a patient who is worried by such fears is easily dissuaded from continuing investigation and treatment by a brusque manner or unsympathetic approach by any medical worker, be it general practitioner, receptionist or consultant. Health Education has much to do for everyone, but no one seems to really want to give it the support it needs.

Whether Health Education would have a significant effect upon the numbers of persons dying from diseases of the heart and blood vessels is more problematic. This group accounts for virtually half the deaths and, to be more specific, coronaries and strokes equal one third of all deaths. The fact that we all have to die some time is irrefutable and it can be argued that the swift extinguishment offered by this group of diseases is preferable to other, less pleasant, ends. What our goal should be is the postponement of onset of the condition, coupled with an active, healthy life, free from discomfort and disability until the very last. Evidence is accumulating that strongly suggest diet, exercise and smoking have profound effects upon the onset of these diseases, and so once more Health Education seems to have the difficult task of attempting to alter our very way of life.

One realises with a shock that a quarter of all those deaths in the table occur before the age of 65 years. One in three of men working now will not be alive to collect their first week's retirement pension! What a bonus to the individual, the family, the community and the national economy if these diseases can be held off until later age.

Such gleanings come from a perusal of the Causes of Death table included in this report and the returns from the General Register Office and the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

But what of the living, what is the state of health of the population in South Oxon? In previous reports I have been able to publish statistics

relating to discharges from hospital of patients resident in the area. This gave an indication of the numbers involved of all diseases that were severe enough to warrant admission in the first place. It was one indication of the incidence of disease in the community. Regrettably these tables are not yet available for the latest year as the department concerned is having to cope with the extra work involved with reorganisation.

The plans within the National Health Service Reorganisation allow for research and intelligence departments and also statistics and information. I hope that morbidity statistics are forthcoming; without them planning and monitoring of services is doomed to expensive failure.

As Medical Officer of Health to several local government districts one finds that the environmental health aspects really begin to deal with the quality of life. The lay public is much more conscious of the environment than formerly, and the interest of the past is enlivened. Now after 125 years the title 'Medical Officer of Health' is to disappear. Yet the achievement has to be maintained and further progress is necessary. In order that this might take place a new creature will rise, Phoenix like, from the M.O.H.'s ashes. This new being, in Oxfordshire, will be a Specialist in Community Medicine with 'Environmental Health' as his remit. The new Oxfordshire will contain a population of just over $\frac{1}{2}$ million. At present there are $3\frac{1}{2}$ whole time equivalent Medical Officers charged with this task. It is patently obvious that one Specialist working in isolation cannot perform the task with any semblance of efficiency. Unless there are further appointments to this Specialty I can foresee disastrous situations arising for the new Oxfordshire populace.

I would like to record my gratitude to colleagues and officers both in Local Government and the Health Services for their help. I am similarly thankful to have served such patient and understanding members of the councils.

Last of all I would thank my secretary Miss Joanna Pickering (whose labour of love this report is) for remaining to the end of this epoch although it has involved sacrificing 2 years of well earned retirement.

I remain

Your servant,

P. M. Green.

The South Oxon Combined Districts receives its public water supplies from two undertakings. The following reports relate to the Thames Valley Water Board and the Oxfordshire and District Water Board. I am grateful to Mr. J.R. Studholme and Mr. G.W. Fuller, the respective Engineers.

Thames Valley Water Board

As in previous years, the supply to the Borough of Henley-on-Thames is obtained from chalk boreholes at Greys Road (Henley) and Harpsden (Shiplake). At these pumping stations, softening by the base exchange process is carried out, the outgoing water being a blend of zero hardness (softened) water and hard (unsoftened) water.

Storage is provided by reservoirs at Badgemore and Mays Green, while a small booster station maintains the supply to Henley Park.

The Harpsden works also supplies the parishes of Shiplake and Harpsden via the Mays Green Reservoir, while the boreholes at Cleeve provide water for a large area of South Oxfordshire, via reservoirs at Beggarsbush, Bix, Cleeve, Goring Heath and Nettlebed, and a water tower at Cookley Green.

Construction of a new reservoir at Kingwood Common was almost completed during the year.

Water Examination was carried out in the Board's laboratory, and samples as detailed were examined in 1972, chemical analysis being given in the attached graph:

Source		No. of samples	Location	No. of samples
Harpsden	Hard	38	Badgemore Reservoir	3
	Final	36	Beggarsbush Reservoir	6
			Bix Reservoir	2
Greys Road	Raw	104	Cleeve Reservoir	3
	Final	106	Cookley Green Tower	2
Cleeve (Goring)	Raw	57	Goring Heath Reservoir	5
	Final	71	Henley Park Works	2
			Mays Green Reservoir	6
			Nettlebed Reservoir	2
			Wodecote Reservoir	20
			Tap Samples	145

The total of 608 samples represents a considerable increase over that for the previous year, largely due to the new arrangements whereby tap samples collected by public health inspectors are examined by the Water Board.

Two incidents during the year require further comment. On 12th June 1972 it was found that a trace of diesel oil was present in water pumped from the No. 3 borehole at Cleeve.

Immediate action was taken to remove the oil, both at the works and the receiving reservoir; in spite of this, the small amount of oil which passed to the distribution system was sufficient to cause isolated complaints in some parts of the area.

At Greys Road, Henley, building development near the works has caused some concern, and a contribution was made by the Board to the cost of providing a surface water drain.

In January and May 1972, raw water quality deteriorated, and a strong presumptive link established with foul drainage problems on the site.

Although the difficulties will no doubt be reduced when development is complete, additional steps will be taken to safeguard water quality from this source.

HENLEY BOROUGH AND SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE AREA

	HENLEY, Greys Rd.		HARPSDEN		CLEEVE
	RAW	FINAL	HARD	BLENDED	BOREHOLES
	Clear & bright	Clear & bright	Clear & bright	Clear & bright	Clear & bright
Appearance					
Colour (HAZEN)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Odour	None	None	None	None	None
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.5
Electrical Conductivity @ 20°C	525	530	530	525	480
pH	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.15
Free carbon dioxide	48	43	47	45	32
Ammoniacal nitrogen (N)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Albuminoid nitrogen (N)	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.002	0.006
Nitrite (N)	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Permanganate Value 4hrs. @ 27°C	0.08	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.03
Iron	0.02	0.02	less than 0.02	0.02	Less than 0.01
Other Metals	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Carbonate Hardness CaCO ₃	280	128	265	115	235
Non Carbonate Hardness CaCO ₃	17	0	35	0	35
Total Hardness CaCO ₃	297	128	300	115	270
Chloride (Cl)	16.5	16.8	18.5	19.5	13.0
Nitrate (N)	5.4	5.4	5.7	5.8	7.0
Sulphate (SO ₄)	6	5.5	6	6	16.5
Calcium (Ca)	116.5	50	117	45	105
Magnesium (Mg)	1.5	0.7	2	0.6	1.8
Sodium (Na)	9.7	88	11.7	98.0	10.2
Potassium (K)	1.0	0.8	1.15	0.8	1.5
Silica (SiO ₂)	17	17	15	16	12
Phosphate (PO ₄)	0.08	0.07	0.05	0.06	0.05
Natural Fluoride (F)	less than 0.1	less than 0.1	less than 0.1	less than 0.1	less than 0.1
Total Solids	390	390	395	395	350

Results given in mgm/litre where appropriate

Report of the Engineer to the Oxfordshire and District Water Board
Mr. G.W. Fuller, B.Sc., M.I.C.E., F.I.W.E.
for 1972

South Oxfordshire Combined Districts

The Districts supplied by the Water Board obtain their water from a number of sources.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Bicester | - Oxford City system |
| Thame | - Oxford City system |
| Bullingdon R.D. | - One borehole each at Kingston Blount, Lewknow, Britwell and Watlington in the Chiltern area, together with two boreholes at Berinsfield.
Culham Source Works.
Supply to western parishes from Oxford City system. |
| Ploughley R.D. | - Four small boreholes in the northern part of the District.
Supplies from Upper Heyford source (Ministry of Defence)
Small bulk supplies from Bucks Water Board generally to the parishes on the eastern and northern boundaries.
Supply to the southern section from Oxford City system.
Integrated supply with Banbury Area system, from Duns Tew service reservoir. |

General

The activities of the Water Board continue to be directed to reducing the number of small uneconomic and unsatisfactory sources. The quality of water supplied was generally satisfactory.

The complete system of water sampling continues in being, in accordance with the modern recommendations for this work.

Particulars for the supply of each individual District are as follows:-

<u>Bicester Urban District and part of</u>	<u>Quantity supplied</u>
<u>Immediate Surrounding Area</u>	<u>m³ per day</u>

The water to this area is supplied from the Board's major sources at Swinford and Farmoor via the 18" and 14" main leading from the Angelino's Pumping Station.

4,301

During the year the following bacteriological samples were taken in Bicester:-

<u>Place of</u> <u>Sampling Water</u> <u>After Treatment</u>	<u>Total Number</u> <u>of Samples</u> <u>Taken</u>	<u>Results</u>		<u>Satisfactory Samples</u> <u>as Percentage of Total</u> <u>Number of Samples Taken</u>
		<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	
Consumers' Taps	50	49	1	98

The results of the river sources of the Oxford System are as given for the Bullingdon District.

Chemical analyses have also been taken and typical analyses are as shown on the attached sheets.

Bullingdon District

Larger feeder mains have been laid to Chinnor and a further borehole has been sunk. This has proved successful and will afford a further 0.5 m.g.d. of good quality water.

The Berinsfield Area water difficulties were again overcome by supplying water from the Culham Laboratory system, which derives its water from the Culham source. The Culham Source Works has also supplied water into the Berinsfield/Dorchester Area.

Bacteriological Examinations

Samples from the River Thames at the Swinford and Farmoor sources were taken together with samples after settlement, after filtration, and of the final water after sterilisation as sent forward to consumers. The examination of these samples by the Public Health Laboratory in Oxford gave the following ranges of probable number of coliform bacilli (2 days at 37°C) per 100 ml.

River Water Samples	35 - 55,000
Settled Water Samples	Nil
Filtered Water Samples	0 - 1
Final Water Samples	Nil

Bacteriological samples were taken where possible of service reservoirs and from consumers' taps in the area of supply, with the following results:-

<u>Place of Sampling Water After Treatment</u>	<u>Total Number of Samples Taken</u>	<u>Results</u>		<u>Satisfactory Samples as Percentage of Total Number of Samples Taken</u>
		<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	
Beacon Hill Res.	51	51	-	100.0
Headington "	60	53	7	88.3
Shotover "	52	50	2	96.1
Boars Hill "	52	51	1	98.0
Brasenose "	51	51	-	100.0
Wootton "	50	50	-	100.0
Culham Laboratory	49	49	-	100.0
Consumers' Taps	205	201	4	98.05
Totals	570	556	14	97.56

Four of the fourteen unsatisfactory samples were of the faecal type.

<u>Borehole Source</u>	<u>After Sterilisation</u>	<u>Range</u>
Berinsfield		0 - 0
Britwell		0 - 0
Kingston Blount		0 - 0
Lewknor		0 - 0
Watlington		0 - 0

Ploughley District

The quality of water supplied was generally satisfactory. Work proceeded on the laying of 10", 12" and 15" feeder mains in Ardley, Somerton, Duns Tew and Upper Heyford.

Bacteriological Examinations

River Sources

The results of these samples are as those already given for the Bullingdon Rural District.

Borehole Sources

Samples of water from the borehole sources were examined by the Public Health Laboratory in Oxford and gave the following count of probable number of coliform bacilli (2 days at 37⁰C) per 100 ml.

<u>Borehole</u>	<u>Before Sterilisation</u>	<u>After Sterilisation</u>
Hethe	0	0
Somerton	0	0
Souldern	0	0
Stratton Audley	0	0

Bacteriological samples were taken where possible from service reservoirs and consumers' taps in this District, with the following results:-

<u>Place of Sampling Water After Treatment</u>	<u>Total Number of Samples Taken</u>		<u>Results</u>		<u>Satisfactory Sam as Percentage of Number of Samples</u>
	<u>Service</u>	<u>Consumers</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	
	<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Taps</u>			
Ardley	44	17	57	4	93.5
Noke	53	2	50	5	91.0
Various Parishes		168	166	2	98.8
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	97	187	273	11	96.13
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	

Four of the organisms causing the unsatisfactory samples were of the faecal type.

OXFORDSHIRE AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLIED FROM SWINFORD SOURCE WORKS 1972.

(water sampled at weekly intervals except where shown)

		MAX	MIN	AVERAGE
<u>Physical Characteristics.</u>				
Turbidity	(j.t.u.)	1.5	0.10	0.29
Colour	(Hazen)	7	nil	2
pH		8.0	6.9	7.6
Electrical Conductivity at 20°C		695	505	600
(micromhos per cm ³)				
<u>Chemical Characteristics.</u>				
(milligrammes per litre)				
Total Dissolved Solids (dried at 180°C)		500	355	430
Total Residual Chlorine	as Cl	1.85	0.10	0.42
Free " "	" "	1.20	nil	0.22
Combined " "	" "	0.65	0.06	0.20
Free Carbon Dioxide	" CO ₂	15	3	7
Total Alkalinity	" CaCO ₃	213	125	185
Permanent Hardness	" " "	162	92	111
Temporary Hardness	" " "	213	125	185
Total Hardness	" " "	332	250	295
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	" N	0.06	nil	0.02
Albuminoid Nitrogen	" N	0.25	0.04	0.10
Total Oxidized Nitrogen	" N	8.0	1.8	3.7
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate		1.6	0.4	0.9
(4 hrs at 27°C)				
Chloride	" Cl	53	26	35
Fluoride	" F ⁺	0.32	0.12	0.20
Sulphate	" SO ₄ ⁺	93	62	74
Calcium	" Ca ⁺	117	88	100
Magnesium	" Mg ⁺	12.2	2.0	8.7
Aluminium	" Al	0.16	0.01	0.04
Iron	" Fe ⁺	nil	nil	nil
Potassium	" K ⁺	8.6	2.7	4.8
Sodium	" Na	40	12	22
Copper	" Cu ⁺	0.03	nil	0.01
Phenol	" C ₆ H ₅ OH ⁺	nil	nil	nil
Detergent	as Manoxol O.T. ⁺	0.08	0.02	0.05

+ Monthly tests.

OXFORDSHIRE AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLIED FROM FARMOOR SOURCE WORKS DURING 1972.

(Water sampled at weekly intervals except where shown)

		MAX	MIN	AVERAGE
<u>Physical Characteristics.</u>				
Turbidity	(j.t.u.)	0.55	0.09	0.19
Colour	(Hazen)	1	nil	1
pH		8.0	7.4	7.7
Electrical Conductivity at 20°C		580	505	545
(micromhos per cm ³)				
<u>Chemical Characteristics. Milligrammes per litre.</u>				
Total Dissolved Solids (dried at 180°C)		415	355	385
Total Residual Chlorine	as Cl	0.86	0.21	0.46
Free	" "	0.64	0.05	0.23
Combined	" "	0.40	0.12	0.23
Free Carbon Dioxide	" CO ₂	9	3	6
Total Alkalinity	" CaCO ₃	183	137	164
Permanent Hardness	" " "	117	94	106
Temporary Hardness	" " "	183	137	164
Total	" " "	294	248	270
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	" N	0.07	nil	0.02
Albuminoid	" "	0.16	0.05	0.10
Total Oxidised Nitrogen	" "	4.3	0.5	2.5
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate	(4hrs @ 27°C)	0.8	0.3	0.6
Chloride	as Cl	34	27	30
Fluoride	" F +	0.24	0.10	0.16
Sulphate	" SO +	93	77	83
Calcium	" Ca +	102	79	93
Magnesium	" Mg +	13.6	7.3	9.3
Aluminium	" Al	0.21	nil	0.07
Iron	" Fe +	nil	nil	nil
Potassium	" K	5.0	3.6	4.1
Sodium	" Na	23	15	18
Copper	" Cu +	0.04	nil	0.01
Phenol	" C ₆ H ₅ OH ⁺	nil	nil	nil
Detergent	as Manoxol O.T.	0.07	nil	0.03

+ Monthly tests

OXFORDSHIRE AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD.
CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF RIVER THAMES AT SWINFORD 1972.

	MAX	MIN	AVERAGE
<u>Physical Characteristics.</u>			
Turbidity (j.t.u.)	55	3.7	11
Colour (Hazen)	90	1	20
pH	8.7	7.9	8.2
Electrical Conductivity at 20°C (micromhos per cm ³)	680	480	590
<u>Chemical Characteristics.</u> (milligrammes per litre)			
Total Dissolved solids (dried at 180°C)	490	335	425
Carbonate (as CaCO ₃)	30	nil	10
Total Alkalinity " "	235	132	207
Permanent Hardness " "	138	78	99
Temporary " " "	230	132	198
Total " " "	340	240	297
Ammoniacal Nitrogen " N	0.44	0.22	0.13
Albuminoid " " N	0.44	0.11	0.19
Total Oxidised " " N	7.5	1.8	3.8
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate (4 hrs at 27°C)	5.2	0.8	1.8
Chloride as Cl	49	18	31
Sulphate as SO ₄	74	59	64
Phosphate as PO ₄	2.9	0.2	1.1
Sodium as Na	40	12	22
Iron as Fe	nil	nil	nil
Copper as Cu	0.03	nil	0.02

OXFORDSHIRE AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD.

ANALYSIS OF FARMOOR RESERVOIR WATER IN 1972.

	MAX	MIN	AVERAGE
<u>Physical Characteristics.</u>			
Turbidity (j.t.u.)	6.0	1.0	2.5
Colour (Hazen)	21	1	10
pH	8.9	8.3	8.6
Electrical Conductivity at 20°C (micromhos per cm ³)	580	490	530
<u>Chemical Characteristics.</u> (milligrammes per litre).			
Total Dissolved Solids (dried at 180°C)	415	340	375
Carbonate (as Ca CO ₃)	50	5	30
Total Alkalinity " " "	199	167	185
Permanent hardness " " "	147	97	115
Temporary " " "	184	135	157
Total " " "	296	252	272
Ammoniacal Nitrogen " N	0.26	0.01	0.06
Albuminoid " N	0.30	0.11	0.18
Total Oxidised " N	6.0	0.8	2.6
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate (4hrs at 27°C)	1.4	0.8	1.1
Chloride as Cl	33	25	29
Sulphate as SO ₄	76	67	70
Phosphate as PO ₄	1.1	0.2	0.4
Sodium as N _a	23	15	18
Iron as Fe	Nil	Nil	Nil
Copper as Cu	0.03	nil	0.01
Chlorophyll as mgm ⁻³	19.6	1.4	8.4

I am grateful to Mr. Bartram, County Public Health Inspector, for the following report on milk.

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE AREA

Untreated Milk

8 farms retail bottled untreated milk within the area.

<u>Sample Summary</u>		<u>Negative</u>	<u>Positive</u>
No. submitted for Brucella Ring Screening Test	93	91	2
No. submitted for Biological examination	24	21	3
		<u>Passed</u>	<u>Failed</u>
No. submitted for Keeping Quality	19	14	5

+ Following upon the positive ring test, investigation of the herd revealed 1 cow's milk biologically positive to Brucella abortus.
No milks were positive to Bovine Tuberculosis.

Pasteurised Milk

111 dealers pre-packed milk licences were in force at the end of 1972.
In addition, 3 dairies are licensed to pasteurise milk.

Sample Summary

Dealers pre-packed milk:-

Grade	No.	Phosphatase Test		Methylene Blue Test		
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Void
Pasteurised	88	87	1	82	5	1
Ultra Heat Treated	10	Colony Count Test				
		Passed	Failed			
		8	2			
Sterilised	9	Turbidity Test				
		Passed	Failed			
		9	-			

Pasteurising Dairies

	No.	Phosphatase Test		No.	Methylene Blue Test		
		Passed	Failed		Passed	Failed	Void
Samples	258	255	3	254	253	1	-
School Milk							
Pasteurised Samples	29	29	-	29	27	2	

Food and Drugs Sampling

<u>Samples</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Pasteurised milk	50	49	1 - low in solids - not fat
Untreated milk	18	15	(2 - low in solids - (1 - 7.10% not fat added water
Antibiotics	12	12	
Cream	17	13	4 - all low in milk fat

A carton of Fresh milk concentrate was submitted for analysis. Public Analyst reported that as part of the natural water in the milk had been removed during the process of concentration, the product could not be described as Fresh. The issue was taken up with the manufacturers, who withdrew the product.

Bacteriological Examination of Cream

<u>Samples</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Fairly Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Pasteurised Cream	28	17	4	7
+ Untreated Cream	1	-	-	1

Notes

- a) With unsatisfactory samples, deficiencies etc., these cases are taken up with dairy concerned.
- b) + The supply of untreated cream in the Henley area ceased during the year.

Milk Complaints

9 complaints were received from the public and in two of these prosecutions were taken against the dairy, fines totalling £105 and presecution costs of £22.50 were imposed.

Area	England & Wales	U.D. Bicester	M.B. Henley	U.D. Thame	R.D.C. Bullington	R.D.C. Henley	R.D.C. Ploughley	South Oxon
Population	4,962,890	12,640	11,780	5,960	55,700	33,370	36,450	155,900
Live births	725,405	247	147	110	906	542	482	2,400
Live births per 1000 population	14.8	19.5	12.5	18.5	16.3	16.2	13.2	15.5
Illegiti- mate births %	9	7	4	4	6	2	5	2
Stillbirths	8,794	5	-	3	2	6	2	3
Stillbirth rate/1000 live	12	20	-	27	2	11	4	3
Infant Deaths under 1 yr	12,494	2	3	1	5	10	11	30
under 4 weeks	8,373	2	2	-	1	5	7	17
under 1 week	7,142	2	2	-	1	5	6	16
under 1 yr per 1000 live	17	8	20	9	6	18	23	17
under 4 wks per 1000 live	12	8	14	-	1	9	15	17
under 1 wk per 1000 live	10	8	14	-	1	9	12	16
Stillbirths & Deaths under 1 wk. per 1000 births	22	28	14	27	3	20	17	17
Total Deaths	591,907	76	164	53	436	282	239	800
Deaths per 1000 pop'n (crude)	12.1	6.0	13.9	8.9	7.8	8.5	6.6	8.0

CAUSE OF DEATH	weeks	under 1 yr.	1-5-15-25-35-45-55-65-75-										M	F	Total	
			1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-					
Enteritis and other	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Diarrhoeal Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis -respiratory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1
Tuberculosis -late effects	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	2
Tuberculosis - other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Meningococcal infection	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Other infective or parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	2	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, Buccal cavity	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	3	5	5
Malignant neoplasm, Oesophagus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	1	4	6	6
Malignant neoplasm, Prostate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	9	-	9	8	8
Malig. neoplasm,Intestines	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	7	8	7	9	19	28	42	42
Malig. neoplasm, Stomach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	15	12	15	15	30	19	19
Malig. neoplasm, larynx	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	-	3	-	-
Malig. neoplasm,Lung Bronchus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	38	14	61	21	82	69	69
Malig. neoplasm, Breast	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	4	8	7	7	-	30	30	32	32
Malig. neoplasm, Uterus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	3	3	5	5
Leukaemia	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	4	4	9	5	14	7	7
Other malig. neoplasms	-	-	-	1	2	2	9	10	14	24	25	41	44	85	62	62
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	1	3	4	6	6
Diabetes mellitus	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	5	-	6	7	6	13	10	10
Other Endocrine diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4	4
Anaemias	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	4	4	1	1
Other diseases of blood	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Avitaminoses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	2	2	2
Mental disorders	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	6	7	3	10	1	1
Multiple Sclerosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	4	4	1	1
Other diseases of nervous system	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	6	6	7	13	10	10
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	6	5	7	7	14	12	12
Hypertensive disease	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	4	5	7	6	13	5	5
Ischaemic heart disease	-	-	-	1	1	6	18	40	85	142	168	124	292	307	307	307
Other heart disease	-	1	-	1	-	-	4	2	8	50	33	33	66	58	58	58

Cerebrovascular disease	-	-	-	-	-	3	11	9	33	84	56	89	145	159
Other diseases of	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	13	31	19	34	53	52
Circulatory system	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	3	3	-
Pneumonia	3	-	-	-	2	-	1	4	24	82	59	57	116	132
Bronchitis & Emphysema	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	19	28	38	13	51	47
Asthma	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	1	3	2	5	6
Other diseases of	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	6	6	7	13	6
Respiratory system	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Appendicitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1
Peptic Ulcer	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	9	10	2	12	12
Intestinal obstruction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	4
and Hernia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	5
Cirrhosis of liver	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other diseases of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
digestive system	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	2	5	3	8	9
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	3	-
Nephritis & Nephrosis	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	2	2	4	7
Other diseases of Genito-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	2	5	7	4
urinary system	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diseases of skin and	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	1
subcutaneous tissue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diseases of Musculo-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	-	3	3	6	5
skeletal system	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital anomalies	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	6	3	9	14
Birth injury, difficult	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	4	10	9
labour	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other causes of	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	5	8
perinatal mortality	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Symptoms & ill-defined	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	2	3	5	11
conditions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	1	5	3	2	1	2	1	2	10	7	17	19
All other accidents	-	2	-	2	2	-	-	4	-	10	9	11	20	30
Suicide and self-	-	-	-	-	3	3	5	4	-	2	9	8	17	14
inflicted injuries	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	1	3	4
All other external causes	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Total 1250 1249

Cases of Infectious Disease notified since 1935

Disease	5 Yearly periods and This Year									
	1935	1940	1945	1950	1955	1960	1965	1970	1972	
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	2	2	7	16	-	-	-	-	
Cerebrospinal Fever	-	26	7	-	4	2	2	4	5	
Diphtheria	13	10	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Dysentery	-	40	61	14	36	69	30	135	9	
Encephalitis	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	1	1	
Erysipelas	14	14	17	11	9	6	3	Not notifiable		
Food Poisoning		-	-	3	10	8	8	47	19	
Malaria	2	1	6	2	1	-	-	1	-	
Measles	?	951	1366	393	1536	336	2827	293	123	
Ophthalmia neonatorum	4	2	4	-	1	1	1	-	-	
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	
Pneumonia	34	44	31	38	59	9	20	Not notifiable		
Puerperal Fever	12	6	5	-	6	-	3	Not notifiable		
Scarlet Fever	99	165	123	45	40	80	15	38	12	
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Typhoid Fever	1	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Whooping Cough	?	60	72	153	89	95	30	13	-	
Cholera								-	-	
Anthrax								-	-	
Plague								-	-	
Relapsing Fever								-	-	
Typhus								-	-	
Glandular Fever	{ - Notifiable since 1967							47	29	
Infective Jaundice								163	27	
Leprosy	{ -Notifiable since 1968							-	-	
Leptospirosis								1	-	
Tetanus								-	1	
Yellow Fever								-	-	
POPULATION	63933	78818	73242	90220	104680	110520	127220	146930	155900	
Tuberculosis	80	?	115	96	81	54	53	26	26	
Infective Disease Deaths	?	?	21	28	21	9	11	6	1	
Enteric Infections										
Disease	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972		
Food Poisoning	8	9	16	28	37	47	36	19		
Dysentery	30	38	16	73	347	135	87	9		
Infective Jaundice	-	-	20	40	242	163	47	27		

Diseases	Henley-on-Thames M.B.	Bicester U.D.	Thame U.D.	Bullington R.D.	Henley R.D.	Ploughley R.D.	Combined Districts	Year 1971
Measles	16	4	-	35	44	24	123	457
Dysentery	-	-	1	2	6	-	9	87
Scarlet Fever	-	2	-	2	2	6	12	20
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Meningitis	-	1	-	2	-	2	5	3
Acute Poliomyelitis								
Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmis neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Anthrax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis								
Infective	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Post-Infective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leptospirosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	3	-	5	8	3	19	36
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
Tetanus	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Infective Jaundice	-	1	2	13	6	5	27	47
Tuberculosis								
Respiratory	3	2	2	9	4	2	22	31
Meninges & C.N.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	1	1	2	-	4	5
Glandular Fever	-	1	-	17	11	-	29	33
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	19	14	6	87	83	43	252	748

Notifications of Infectious Diseases 1972

MUNICIPAL BOROUGH

OF

HENLEY-ON-THAMES

Public Health Inspector

N. Scott

Council Offices - West Hill House

Henley-on-Thames

Tel.2626

HENLEY-ON-THAMES BOROUGH COUNCIL

FOOD AND DRUGS

FOOD HYGIENE (Regulations of 1966 and 1970)

Type of Food Premises	Number	Number of Inspections
Food Shops (including dairies and bakehouses)	73	72
Licensed Premises (including clubs)	50	24
Restaurants and Cafes	15	20
Miscellaneous (Canteens etc.)	20	7
Stalls, Vehicles etc.	-	8
TOTAL	158	131

Number of informal notices 44
Number of prosecutions NIL

The number of inspections shows a reduction which is regrettable but which is due, almost entirely, to the increase in time which had to be devoted to the housing survey. It is hoped, therefore, that the position will improve in the coming year.

There were no prosecutions during the year and only in respect of one premises was a rather stern warning required.

The extent to which the public are becoming conscious of the need for food hygiene is encouraging. The benefit of having public co-operation is demonstrated by the following incidents:-

- (a) Someone who starts work at a very early hour in the morning became aware that bread was being delivered to a certain shop long before the staff arrived. The bread was left on the pavement where it was exposed to risk of contamination of various kinds. This was brought to my notice and the bakery, who were quite unaware of this action by their delivery man, took immediate steps to remedy this.
- (b) A visitor to the town complained that staff in cake shops were handling money and confectionery and I was able to refer to this complaint in reminding the businesses concerned of the need to ensure that staff use the tongs which are available.

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- (c) A customer complained about the type of wrapping paper being used in connection with certain food. Whereas this perhaps did not represent a direct contravention of the Regulations, the receipt of the complaint supported my claim that the practice was undesirable and the shop-in-question is now using a more suitable wrapping material.

Whereas the above cases represent examples of co-operation between the public and the officer to ensure better habits by the trader, there are instances where the trader and the officer have to join forces against the customer. On one occasion, during the year, I was approached concerning a customer who insisted upon taking his dog into a certain store, and who claimed that this would not meet with the disapproval of the Health Inspector. I was pleased to confirm, in writing, that the store's policy of not allowing dogs into their premises had my support.

Pet-lovers, of course, can be a problem. One such person, dismayed possibly by my failure to express sufficiently great concern about her complaint that some foreign matter had been found in her dog's food, exclaimed: "Isn't it remarkable that animals should be considered so much less important than people?" This brought the not-terribly-diplomatic reply: "Animals ARE much less important than people."

A certain amount of controversy arose, during the year, over poor standards of food hygiene which were alleged to exist in certain hospitals, in various parts of the country. There was criticism, too, of the fact that hospitals are not subject to the Food Hygiene Regulations. In view of this, it was pleasing to receive an invitation, from the Group Secretary of the Reading & District Hospital Management Committee, to visit the Group hospitals in the Borough. A similar invitation was received from the St. Birinus Group several years ago. My inspections have revealed conditions, generally, to be very satisfactory.

REGISTRATION OF PREMISES (Section 16, Food & Drugs Act 1955)

	Registration for		
	Sale of Ice-Cream	Manufacture of Ice-Cream	Manufacture of Sausages or Preserved Food
Number of applications considered	2	-	-
Number of applications refused	-	-	-
Number of applications approved	2	-	-
Number now on register	37	-	26

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Retail premises may not be used for the cooking of meat intended for sale unless they are registered by the local authority. Upon any change in the occupation of such premises, the incoming occupier must give notice of the change to the local authority. Failure to give this notice to the Council resulted in the prosecution of one retailer, during the year. Although he pleaded "not guilty", he was duly convicted and a fine of £5 was imposed by the Magistrates.

During consideration of the above case, attention was focused on the reasons for registration which, basically, are the need to ensure that the premises and the use thereof are satisfactory, having regard to the business which is the subject of the registration. Where registration is not effected or where change of occupation is not notified, the person carrying on the business does not have the benefit of what would normally be an advisory visit by the public health inspector. In these circumstances, he cannot really expect too much sympathy if, subsequently, he is found to be in contravention of other sections of the legislation.

FOOD INSPECTION (Sections 2 & 8, Food & Drugs Act 1955)

- (a) Routine Inspection - The quality of food displayed for sale, in Henley shops, has continued to be good. Inevitably, there have been occasional grounds for complaint and these are referred to later, in this section of my report. In certain cases, the subjects of these complaints have indicated negligence on the part of some food handler but, in general, the local traders show a great awareness of their responsibilities to the public.

Control of stock rotation continues to improve and this is being assisted, increasingly, by the extension of date-stamping of foodstuffs.

- (b) Voluntary surrender - the following foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered, certified as unfit or unsatisfactory and duly disposed of:-

	Tons	cwts.	lbs.
Frozen Foods	-	15	52
Tinned Foods	-	-	13
Fish	-	-	28
Meat	-	1	35
Total	-	17	16

- (c) Complaints - 39 complaints were received during the year and three of these resulted in prosecutions:-
- (i) On pleading guilty to a charge of selling a loaf of bread containing a piece of string, a local baker was fined £40 plus £18.50 costs.

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- (ii) A steak and onion pie, which seemed to be extraordinarily dry, was passed by this department to the Public Analyst. His report revealed that the moisture content of the pie was a mere 17%, compared with the usual figure of 54-70% for such pies. The pie was regarded as "not of the quality demanded" and a prosecution was instituted. The vendor pleaded "not guilty", but the Magistrates found the case proved; they imposed a fine of £25 together with £9.90 costs.
- (iii) On pleading guilty to a charge of selling bacon which was mouldy, a local supermarket was fined £30 plus £10 costs.

One of the other complaints seemed likely to result in a prosecution and was awaiting further consideration at the end of the year.

The remaining complaints were tremendously varied and, although this report could not deal with them all, some must be mentioned.

The reaction to a mouse found in a bottle of milk in an office in which the female sex predominated can be imagined. To the relief of the dairy, if not to the young ladies in the office concerned, my investigation revealed, quite clearly, that the mouse had gained access to the bottle after it had been opened in the office.

A marrow which was found to have an extremely bitter taste was suspected of having been subject to some form of contamination. The analyst's report, however, revealed that the intense bitterness was probably due to cross pollination by another member of the same family. This case, apparently, is typical of a phenomenon which occurs very occasionally.

It is many years since I encountered mite-infested cheese, and the complaint brought to my attention by a keen-sighted customer caused a great deal of interest amongst the retail staff of the shop concerned. There were so many stages at which this infestation could have built up that it would have been impossible to attribute the blame fairly to one person. In the circumstances, therefore, all persons concerned were warned of the need to take all practicable steps to prevent any further incident of this kind.

All of the complaints were investigated thoroughly. Except in the case of those referred to above, however, formal proceedings were not instituted. In some cases, this was because there were doubts as to the justification of the complaints. In other cases, the respective complainants were reluctant to give evidence in court. There were some cases which involved warranties from overseas countries and, finally, there were some complaints which, on investigation, did not appear to be justified.

HENLEY-ON-THAMES BOROUGH COUNCIL

- (d) Routine Sampling - Routine sampling, under Section 2 of the Act is the responsibility of the Food and Drugs Authority (Oxfordshire County Council) and I am grateful to Mr. H.W. Bishop, County Weights and Measures Inspector, for letting me have the following information:-

During the year ended 31st March 1972, seven samples were taken. Only one was found to be unsatisfactory and, on investigation, it was found that this product was no longer being manufactured. No further action was taken, therefore.

CONTROL OF MILK

(a) The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959

- (i) At the end of the year there were on the register, 21 persons registered as distributors of milk and 2 premises registered as dairies.
- (ii) Plastic milk bottles remained in use during the year and no new objections to them were brought to my attention. One complaint was received relating to a hole found in such a bottle when the customer took the milk from her front door. An examination of this by the Public Analyst revealed that the hole was not due to mechanical tearing but to a hot (but not very hot) object. It was not apparently due to a lighted cigarette being brought into contact with the bottle. The analyst could not entirely rule out a manufacturing defect but considered that it was more likely to have occurred later. The incident, of which there was no recurrence, remained a mystery, unlikely to be repeated - which, of course, is more than one ever dared say in relation to complaints of chipped or dirty glass bottles.

(b) Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1963

The following information has been received from the County Public Health Inspector, to whom I am grateful:-

- (i) 36 samples of pasteurised milk were submitted for testing. All of these passed the Phosphatase Test but 2 failed the Methylene Blue Test.
- (ii) 2 samples of sterilised milk and 1 sample of Ultra Heat Treated milk passed the appropriate tests.

(c) The Cream Regulations 1970

The requirement, under the above Regulations, that cream shall be labelled "pasteurised", "ultra heat treated" or "untreated", as appropriate, came into operation in March 1972. During the year, however, the sale of raw (untreated) cream, in Henley, was dis-continued.

HENLEY-ON-THAMES BOROUGH COUNCIL

(d) Other Control Measures

The County Public Health Inspector, reporting further on his work, states:-

- (i) 13 samples of milk were submitted for analysis and all proved satisfactory.
- (ii) 7 samples of cream were analysed and 3 of these were found to be deficient in fat; cautionary letters were sent to the manufacturers.
- (iii) 1 sample of untreated cream was examined for antibiotics but none was found.
- (iv) A new milk product was sampled and found, on one occasion out of two, to be bacteriologically unsatisfactory. At the same time it was considered that there were various offences concerning the description of the product which, following correspondence with the manufacturers, was eventually withdrawn from the market.
- (v) 16 samples of cream were submitted for bacteriological examination. 13 of these were of heat-treated cream and 1 unsatisfactory result was produced. Of the 3 samples of untreated cream, there again was 1 unsatisfactory result, but the sale of this cream has been dis-continued.

(e) Brucella abortus

No raw milk is sold in the borough; no such samples were examined, therefore.

POULTRY INSPECTION

There are no poultry processing premises within the Borough.
(Information required by the Department of Health and Social Security.)

HENLEY-ON-THAMES BOROUGH COUNCIL

HOUSING

HOUSING PROVIDED

During the year the following accommodation was provided:-

- (a) New houses built by local authority ... NIL
- (b) New houses built by private persons ... 66

COUNCIL HOUSING LIST

The list contained, at the end of the year, a total of 307 applicants.

HOUSING SURVEY

In Department of the Environment Circular 50/72, local authorities were required to provide information about the condition of the housing stock of their respective areas and to prepare a strategy for dealing with unfit and sub-standard housing. The background to this request was a speech by the Rt. Hon. Julian Amery, Minister for Housing and Construction, in which he pressed for non-acceptance of a situation in which people - and there are still millions of them - live in houses unworthy of a civilised country.

As a result of this request, an extensive survey was carried out and this produced the following statistics for submission to the Department of the Environment:-

	<u>Number of Dwellings</u>	
	<u>Owned by Local Authority</u>	<u>Other Ownership</u>
Unfit dwellings		
1. In areas already declared under Part III Housing Act 1957	Nil	Nil
2. In other areas to be declared Under Part III Housing Act 1957	Nil	Nil
3. Not in Part III areas	Nil	14
4. Total of unfit dwellings (Items 1 plus 2 plus 3)	Nil	14
Dwellings not unfit		
5. Up to 12 point standard	760	2863
6. Capable of improvement to 12 point standard	7	260
7. Not capable of improvement to 12 point standard	Nil	Nil
Total dwellings in the area (Items 4 plus 5 plus 6 plus 7)	767	3137

HENLEY-ON-THAMES BOROUGH COUNCIL

The survey proved to be a rewarding if arduous exercise. Some of the conditions and circumstances which were found were a revelation and although certain assumptions had to be made (because of difficulty of access etc.) in the final compilation of the statistics, I am convinced that the information gained will be of great value in the drive to eliminate unfit and sub-standard dwellings.

The strategy of course is simple:-

So far as unfit houses are concerned, there is unlikely to be any need to resort to the use of Demolition or Clearance Orders. It is probable that those individual unfit houses which do arise during the next 5 to 10 years will be rendered fit as a result of either informal action or, at the most, as a sequel to Closing Order action which has led to the re-housing of the occupiers.

In the case of sub-standard houses, the strategy for the next 10 years must be to review the list of sub-standard houses at regular intervals so as to ensure that they are improved at the earliest opportunity; very few, if any, will not be improved once they become vacant, but until that time many are likely to remain un-improved because of lack of interest by the occupiers. There are various reasons for this, but the most usual is that the occupiers are old and are not convinced that the advantages of modernisation outweigh the upset and discomfort which they consider must, inevitably, be associated with works of improvement.

For the immediate future, steps must be taken to ensure that neither tenants nor property owners have rejected the idea of improvements, for financial reasons - being unaware of the various forms of financial assistance available to them.

SLUM CLEARANCE (Housing Act 1957)

- (a) Two houses which had been "closed" during the previous year were vacated and work commenced on the conversion of these two unfit houses into one satisfactory unit of accommodation. At the end of the year this work was virtually completed and arrangements were being made to have the undertaking "not to use" cancelled.
- (b) An unfit house, which was encountered during the housing survey, was the subject of formal action at the end of the year, the owner having been given notice of the Council's intention to consider its future.
- (c) A terrace of houses, including two which had been officially classified as "unfit" and five others which were in poor condition, became the subject of a programme of restoration and improvement. This, however, was a case where I would have preferred to see the eventual complete re-development of the site.

HOUSING REPAIRS (Various Housing and Public Health Acts)

The greatest contributory factor towards the improvement of houses continued to be the Fair Rent scheme which still requires, in many cases, a qualification certificate from the local authority. Such a certificate is not issued unless the house-in-question is in good repair, but without the certificate a Fair Rent may not be registered.

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HOUSING IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (Housing Act 1961)

Increasingly, there is a general awareness of the unsatisfactory nature of this type of housing accommodation. The self-contained unit is much to be preferred but the "supply and demand" factor has resulted in the multiple-occupation form of accommodation becoming extremely profitable. Although in Henley we are fortunate in the standards which are found, there is a need for regular supervision of accommodation where facilities are used communally and where responsibility for maintenance of standards may not rest with one person.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS (Housing Act 1969)

I am grateful to the Borough Surveyor, in whose department Improvement Grants are administered, for allowing me access to his grants register, thereby enabling me to compile the following statistics:-

1972	Standard Grants			Discretionary Grants		
	0/0	Tenanted	Total	0/0	Tenanted	Total
Applications received	3	1	4	24	20	44
Applications approved	3	1	4	22	20	42
Amount of grants approved	£570	£105	£675	£12,233	£15,889	£28,122
Amount of grants paid	£370	£105	£475	£13,136	£10,620	£23,756

COMPULSORY IMPROVEMENTS (Housing Act 1964)

- (a) Improvement Areas - The following table shows a summary of the improvements carried out in all the 1964 Act Improvement Areas since their declaration, last year's figures being shown in brackets:-

AREA	Number of houses improved	
	Tenanted	Owner-Occupied
1. Albert Road	11 (8)	7 (6)
2. Park, Reading, Marmion, Grove and Grange Roads	17 (17)	10 (8)
3. Kings, York and Clarence Roads	19 (18)	9 (9)
4. Harpsden, Reading, Niagara and Boston Roads, Wilson Avenue and Newtown Gardens	16 (13)	8 (6)
5. Greys Hill, Greys Road and Church Street	5 (2)	7 (3)
TOTAL	68 (58)	41 (32)

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- (b) Section 19 - Representations by tenant - Works of improvement were completed at two houses and work commenced towards the end of the year, after a long delay, on a third.

GENERAL IMPROVEMENT AREA (Housing Act 1969)

Although, to date, no areas in the private sector have appeared to lend themselves to being declared as General Improvement Areas (perhaps because of the extensive use of the Housing Act 1964 compulsory powers), it will be increasingly necessary in the future, to have regard not only to the need for improvement of dwellings but also to the need for environmental improvements. Questions to be asked, concerning the environment of potential General Improvement Areas, include:-

1. Can traffic arrangements be improved?
2. Can off-street parking facilities be provided?
3. Can more open space be made available?
4. Can the appearance of the area be improved by tree planting etc. and use of more attractive street furniture?
5. Can the air be made cleaner?
6. Can ambient noise levels be reduced?

In the consideration of any area, however, it is important to remember the wishes of the residents. They, after all, are the ones who have to live with the "improvements".

CONTROLLED TO REGULATED TENANCIES (Housing Acts 1969 and 1972)

When a controlled tenancy is converted into a regulated tenancy, the rent for the tenancy, instead of remaining pegged at the amount laid down by the 1957 Rent Act, becomes subject to rent regulation - i.e. to the fair rent system.

The Housing Finance Act 1972 modified the procedures for converting, from rent control to rent regulation, tenancies of dwellings which have all the standard amenities and are in good repair. It also shortened the period over which the controlled rent is allowed to move up to the fair rent registered by the rent officer. Most important of all, however, it provided for a general programme for conversion from rent control to rent regulation, i.e. all other controlled dwellings (with certain exceptions) will become regulated on certain "applicable dates", depending upon their rateable value on 31st March 1972:-

<u>Rateable Value</u>	<u>Date tenancy become regulated</u>
£60 or more	1st January 1973
£45-£60	1st July 1973
£35-£44	1st January 1974
£25-£34	1st July 1974
£20-£24	1st January 1975
Less than £20	1st July 1975

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There have been so many changes in the legislation relating to this aspect of housing, during recent years, that the confusion which exists is not hard to imagine; and this confusion is not confined to the public! The department has been called upon, therefore, to deal with numerous enquiries, in addition to the formal applications for Qualification Certificates:-

- (a) Applications for Qualification Certificates in cases where the dwelling is short of the qualifying standard:-

Number of applications received	7
Number of applications rejected	3
Certificates of Provisional Approval granted	6
Certificates of Provisional Approval refused	NIL
Number of Qualification Certificates issued	11

Three applications were rejected when investigations revealed that, for various reasons, a Certificate was not required.

- (b) Applications for Qualification Certificates in cases where the dwelling meets the qualifying standard:-

Number of applications received	7
Qualification Certificates issued	7
Qualification Certificates refused	1
Qualification Certificates provisionally refused	1

In the case of the provisional refusal above and 4 provisional refusals from last year, it became necessary to delete these applications, the dwellings-in-question having rateable values of over £60. This meant, of course, that with effect from 1st January 1973, these tenancies became regulated instead of controlled, without the need to obtain a Qualification Certificate - and without the need to do the work which was necessary in order to qualify.

LANDLORD AND TENANT MATTERS (Rent Acts etc.)

Legislation relating to such matters as rent, security of tenure, harassment etc. has become so complex that it is not surprising to have to record a tremendous increase in the number of enquiries handled by this department. These enquiries come from, landlords, tenants, prospective property owners, estate agents and solicitors, and cover a wide range of problems.

As has been mentioned earlier in this report, the Housing Finance Act 1972 brought about certain changes in the conversion of controlled to regulated tenancies. It also made provision, effective from 1st January 1973, for certain increases of rent to be by agreement between landlord and tenant. In anticipation of this, there were, inevitably, a number of enquiries and it has been explained that, following conversion from controlled to regulated tenancies, details of any agreed increase, between landlord and tenant, have to be submitted to the Council. Tenants are, in this way, protected against entering into any unreasonable agreement.

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Other than by a proper agreement, rents can only be increased by reference to the Rent Officer. Where a joint application is made (i.e. by landlord and tenant), the tenant forfeits his right to appeal against the eventual registration of the rent listed in the application. This is fairly obvious. Nevertheless, I will always be doubtful about joint applications after learning of a case where a number of tenants had been advised, by a person acting for the owner, that it was imperative that they sign the joint application (prepared, without consultation, by the owner) if they wished to retain their tenancies. The seriousness of this matter was brought to the attention of the owner who, before submitting the applications to the Rent Officer, deleted the signatures of the various tenants.

Four complaints were received relating to matters which, loosely, could be described as harassment. On investigation, two of these were found to be justified, although I doubt whether they could have been regarded as contravening the Rent Act. Both matters were resolved satisfactorily, however, without the need for formal action.

Being concerned about the extent to which rents of furnished accommodation are continuing to increase - in some cases, to exorbitant levels - it seemed to me that tenants' attention should be drawn to the fact that they could, if they wished, discuss rent problems with me. I had in mind the fact that, where it seems appropriate to do so, the Council can refer the rent of a furnished unit of accommodation to the Rent Tribunal, for consideration. It is hoped that an article, by the Town Clerk, on this subject, which duly appeared in the Henley Standard, may have persuaded tenants not to be so tolerant of excessive rent increases.

CARAVANS (Acts of 1960 and 1968)

Number of new licences issued	NIL
Number of licences renewed	NIL
Total number of licences in force at end of year	3
Total number of caravans permitted at end of year	86

One application for a licence, in respect of a caravan found to be in use in the yard of an engineering company, was approved by the Council subject to planning permission being obtained. At the end of the year, however, the planning issue had still not been resolved.

In a circular from the Department of the Environment, licensing authorities were asked to review the fire-fighting provisions contained in conditions attached to caravan licences issued by them. As a result of this review the Council resolved that fire extinguishers at the Swiss Farm residential site should remain in position throughout the year. (In the past, they have been moved to a central position, during the winter months, so as to protect them from frost.) Since it seemed likely that in their new all-year positions, the extinguishers would be kept in individual boxes (for frost protection), the licence conditions were amended so as to require conspicuous labelling of these boxes.

There are no holiday caravans or camping sites in the Borough.

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FACTORIES ACT

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	53	15	2	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-work premises)	-	3	1	-
TOTAL	55	18	3	-

PARTICULARS (1)	NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND				NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH PROSECUTIONS WERE INSTITUTED (6)
	FOUND (2)	REMED- IED (3)	REFERRED to H.M. Insp. (4)	by H.M. Insp. (5)	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilator	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Convenience:-					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	1	-	-	-

PART VIII of the Act

No lists having been received, there would appear to be no outworkers in the Borough.

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OFFICES SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

REGISTRATION

The total number of registered premises shows a net increase of 3, there having been 27 additions to and 24 removals from the register.

Despite the general warning issued by the Council, employers are still failing to give notice of their intention to employ persons. In this connection, two cases were referred, at the end of the year, to the Council's solicitors, with a view to the possible institution of prosecutions.

CONTRAVENTIONS

64 informal notices were issued and, in these, reference was made to the following matters:-

Temperature	19
Ventilation	5
Lighting	14
Sanitary conveniences	8
Washing facilities	8
Supply of drinking water	3
Seats for sedentary workers	1
Eating facilities	1
Floors, passages and stairs	16
Guarding of machinery	4
First-aid materials	22
Lifts and hoists	2
Information for employees	30

ACCIDENTS

Seven accidents were reported during the year but I find it hard to believe that, out of nearly 1500 people to whom the Act applies, such a small number could be involved in notifiable accidents.

Notifiable accidents are those which either are fatal or disable the person concerned for more than three days from doing his usual work. The following is a summary of those accidents which were notified during the year:-

Cuts, involving the use of dangerous machinery.....	1
Cuts	4
Fracture - fall on same level	1
Bruising - fall on same level	1

In none of the above cases, did any blame appear to be attributable to the employer. In fact, in all but one case (the fracture, which did appear to be a pure "accident"), it seemed likely that there had been a degree of negligence on the part of the respective employees.

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SHOPS ACT 1950

SHOPS (EARLY CLOSING DAYS) ACT 1965

Interest in 6-day trading continued to increase and, after exemption orders had been made in respect of, first, fashion shops and, later, antique shops, the Chamber of Trade asked the Council to consider making an order which would exempt all shops in the Borough from the need to close on one weekday afternoon, each week.

In these circumstances it was necessary to make a survey, in order that the wishes of the various shopkeepers could be ascertained. This revealed that only two classes were against the exemption - Pet Shops (of which there is only one!) and Mens' Hairdressers - and the Order which was duly made excluded these.

It is to be noted that where exemption orders are made, there is no obligation on the owners of shops to remain open. This explains why much of the centre of Henley is still found to be "closed" on a Wednesday afternoon.

Sunday-trading legislation is receiving a lot of attention in some areas. It has not presented any problem in this borough in recent years; long may it so remain!

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

There continues to be only one shop licensed under this Act. It is operated satisfactorily and was the subject of extensive alterations and improvements during the year.

HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS

Generally, these establishments give little cause for concern but it did seem necessary to send a copy of our byelaws to the proprietor of one salon where junior staff did not appear to be too conversant with certain hygiene requirements.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936 - S.89

Further improvements were noted in the sanitary facilities and washing arrangements provided in various licenced premises in the borough. Four informal notices were sent to the proprietors of premises where improvements were seen to be required and it is anticipated that these will be complied with during the coming year.

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The Council considered the case of one catering establishment which opened without having consulted the local authority as to the adequacy, or otherwise, of the facilities provided. In fact, it had not been intended to provide any facilities for customers; no plans had been submitted and it was only when the work was nearing completion that this was realised. Fortunately, a modification was possible which was accepted by the Council, on the understanding that the adequacy of this arrangement would be kept under review.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Power cuts during the early parts of the year caused considerable problems and only valiant efforts by the staff concerned kept the pumping stations functioning.

At the end of the year the Council indicated that they were willing to take sewage from parts of Wycombe Rural District. This, together with a previous decision to accept sewage from Henley Rural District meant that consideration had to be given to the enlargement of the Marlow Road Disposal Works. During this consideration, regard was had to the quantity of the discharge from the Brewery and the effect of this on the disposal works. As a result, it was agreed that the Brewery Company should be advised of the need to subscribe to the running costs of the works.

So far as storm water is concerned, it was hoped at one stage to arrange for a survey of the town ditch to be undertaken. For a number of reasons, however, this had to be held in abeyance.

It is believed that there now remain 72 houses which have no connection to the sewer; one house, previously served by septic tank, was connected to the sewer during the year. Those householders who do not have the benefit of main drainage have to make their own arrangements for emptying of septic tanks etc., since the Council do not operate a cesspool-emptying service. This fact alone is seen, by one ratepayer who I encountered during the year, as justification for local government re-organisation!

WATER SUPPLY

Details of the borough water supply, source, treatment analysis, etc. are being presented by the Medical Officer of Health in his annual report. It is pleasing to be able to record in this report, however, an extension in the degree of co-operation which has always existed between the Water Board and this Department. This extension relates to the bacteriological examination of the borough water supply and involves my being responsible for the collection of samples for examination by the Board's chemist. Although the exercise involves only one sample per week, it is considered to be a useful addition to the control measures already in existence.

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ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Thirteen complaints, under this heading, were received during the year and these related to such diverse subjects as - smoke from garden bonfires, dust from un-completed roads (on new developments), smoke from a school incinerator, smoke and dust from a demolition site, paint-spray emission from a factory and coal-dust from a coal yard.

No formal action was taken but that is not to suggest that all the causes for complaint have been eliminated. In some cases this is so, but in others the situation remains under review.

In one case, that of the demolition site, it did seem that those responsible for the nuisance might have been prosecuted for failure to give notice of intention to demolish. With a maximum possible fine of £5, which, assuming a conviction, would have been imposed months after the event, it hardly seemed worthwhile, however.

NOISE ABATEMENT

During the year, the department acquired a noise level meter. This particular instrument is rather basic and, to date, it has been put to very little use. Nevertheless, it is a useful addition to the equipment of the department and is likely to be of considerable assistance in connection with complaints where an objective assessment is required.

Twenty-six complaints were received during the year, the following being an analysis of noise source:-

Industrial	14
Road works	7
Domestic	2
Commercial	3

Eight of the complaints referred to under the industrial heading above, related to one source. This was an industrial premises, where a paint-spray booth had been installed in such a location that the high-velocity exhaust caused a disturbance to the majority of the residential occupiers of the surrounding properties. The Council were satisfied of the existence of a statutory nuisance and a formal notice was served. In due course, a silencer unit was fitted which reduced the noise to a level deemed to be satisfactory during the normal working day.

Other complaints included the inevitable "neighbour's noisy dog" and a number relating to road-breakers which were observed to be without noise-reducing mufflers. One point, relating to the latter, which is not generally understood by complainants, is that it is not illegal to use a road-breaker without a silencer.

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On the subject of the law, the following excerpt from a paper, by Mr. Rupert Taylor (Noise Consultant), presented to the annual conference of the Association of Public Health Inspectors, is of interest:-

"However, all noise is not nuisance in the legal sense of the word by a very large measure. There is a precise difference between being woken at three in the morning by a pneumatic drill, and mentioning twice a week how noisy the area is becoming. Nuisance is very different from the steady insidious deterioration in the general ambient noise levels around a person's home. It may not even be possible to detect the principal sources of the noise, but each year, sound level readings creep up by a decibel at a time. This is where the standards must be brought in. This is where rigid enforcement of preset criteria is called for.

"In the present state of affairs, the local authority may be well aware that although they can point to no individual source, two or three factories and the gas works are largely responsible for the rise in the ambient noise level. They are powerless to act. No nuisance sticks out like any sore thumbs, no abatement notices can be issued, and no injunctions applied for.

"The Secretary of State for the Environment has made it his declared intention to include in the Parliamentary timetable at the earliest opportunity a new Noise Abatement Bill substantially on the lines of the draft contained in "Neighbourhood Noise". With a concept much in common with the proposals of this Association, the new Bill will contain a provision for the establishment of Noise Abatement Zones. An entirely new legal procedure is proposed with which to operate them."

Following discussion on the above and another paper, the following resolution was carried by a very large majority:-

"That this Conference being alarmed at the growing impact of noise on the community, urges H.M. Government to introduce legislation in the next Parliamentary session to strengthen the powers of local authorities and police to deal with this problem."

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS 1928 AND 1930

Controversy, over the decision not to renew the licenses held by three old-established businesses in the town, continued to rage during the year. The Council adhered to their decision, however, and the licence holders appealed to the Home Office.

By the end of the year, two appeals had been heard and a third was awaited; no results had been received, however.

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The review of other existing installations will continue during the coming year.

On an afternoon in the early part of the year, an unknown person called the fire brigade to a service station where, it was alleged, a dangerous situation would be found to exist. Subsequently I was contacted by a Fire Officer who had visited the premises and who had seen certain matters which he considered should be brought to my notice.

On arrival at the premises, I found that the "dangerous conditions" which had been referred to involved works of alteration to the frames and covers of the petrol tank manholes. Steps were taken to prevent further danger but, after consideration of the incident by the Council, it was resolved to institute proceedings in respect of the failure, by the licence holder, to provide the dip/fill pipes with proper covers. This case was duly heard in the Magistrates Court where the licence holder, after pleading guilty, was fined £75 and ordered to pay costs of £20.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

Section 50

It became necessary, during the year, to arrange for the burial of an old person who had died in the borough, but who had nobody available to make arrangements for her burial. In these circumstances the local authority is required to take appropriate action. Part of the cost of the burial was recovered from the death grant.

In connection with this incident, several questions were asked about the disposal of the dead person's effects. These proved difficult to answer and when, by coincidence, a memorandum was received from the Department of Health and Social Security, it was hoped that this would offer some guidance.

In the memorandum, reference was made to local authorities' responsibilities in connection with the property of persons dying in hospital. Unfortunately, however, there was no similar reference to deaths, other than in hospital, involving persons who die intestate and without lawful kin.

In the circumstances, I decided to write to the Department of Health and Social Security, asking for their guidance. To date, however, I have received no reply.

Section 47

Although conditions were not found which were sufficiently serious to warrant reference to the Medical Officer of Health, two cases did give cause for concern. In one of these, I was unable to gain entry to the house until I had pointed out that, if necessary, I would apply to the Magistrates for a warrant. By the time that I did make my inspection, the premises had obviously been improved and in neither case was there any need for formal action. Re-visits will be necessary, however, because, in cases involving old-age and/or infirmity, home conditions can deteriorate very rapidly.

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PEST CONTROL

A free pest control service continued to be available to occupiers of domestic properties. The service, provided by Messrs. Rentokil Laboratories Limited, covers only those complaints relating to rats, mice and wasps; for other complaints, help in the form of advice was all that could be offered and although generally this was well received, a more comprehensive service should be one of the advantages brought about by local government re-organisation.

RODENT CONTROL

62 complaints were received during the year, 12 of these relating to mice, and all but 7 were dealt with under the contract with Messrs. Rentokil Limited. In the other cases, advice was given to the complainants as to the control measures which should be taken.

A series of good results obtained from sewer inspections in recent years, resulted in our being exempt from the need to carry out a check during the year under review.

WASPS

After a record-breaking season in 1971, the wasp problem presented a more normal pattern during 1972. Compared with the previous year's 141 complaints, there were only 49 requests for help, this year. Appropriate cases were passed to Messrs. Rentokil Limited for attention.

PIGEON CONTROL

Towards the end of the year the Council resolved that another trapping operation should be carried out, on the Council's behalf, by Messrs. Rentokil Limited. The pigeon problem in Henley is by no means as severe as it is in some other districts but this, of course, is due, in part, to control measures undertaken by the Council in the past, and a policy of regular small-scale operations would seem to be the key to keeping the problem under reasonable control.

OTHER PESTS

Included in this list were complaints relating to ants, flies, fleas, bed bugs, dried fruit beetles, cluster flies, fur beetles, carpet beetles, ladybirds, weevils, book lice, moles and squirrels. No lack of variety!

In all cases it was possible to give advice as to appropriate treatment. In two cases, however, the ladybirds and the dried fruit beetles, the presence of the pests was quite unaccountable.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1958

Only one licence to slaughter pigs and calves, using an approved humane killer, was issued during the year. There are however, no slaughter houses in the Borough.

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INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The establishment of some sort of record seemed possible, when it was learned that a check being made on a food handler, employed by the county council, had resulted from a declaration that she had suffered from **typhoid fever** - 50 years ago! No record was forthcoming, however; the bacteriologist's report revealed that she was not a "carrier".

Only one case of dysentery was notified. This was investigated in the normal way, as were two suspected cases of food poisoning, which were referred to the department.

Other control measures, undertaken during the year, included checking on contacts of cases of infectious disease occurring elsewhere, and surveillance of persons arriving in this country, and proceeding to Henley, without being in possession of a valid vaccination certificate.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses in the Borough. (This information is required by the Department of Health and Social Security.)

HEALTH EDUCATION

It was pleasing, during the year, to learn that students at the South Oxfordshire Technical College had been assisted in answering at least one question in their "O" level Human Biology examination, by their recollection of a talk which I had given to them, during their course of studies. In these circumstances, an invitation to talk to the next course was not altogether unexpected! Nevertheless, I was pleased to accept, as I was in the case of an invitation to talk, on food hygiene, to a mixed class of students (Home Economics and Human Biology) at the Grammar School.

Success in GCE examinations, however, is not the sole aim of health education talks. Occasionally these are given in response to a request from a group of people who merely wish to know more about the public health inspector's duties. Such a request came from the Henley Young Conservatives, during the year, and there seems little doubt that occasions such as this present a great opportunity for explaining to the public the co-operative effort which is necessary if satisfactory environmental conditions are to be achieved and maintained.

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CONSERVATION AND PLANNING

Having been closely involved with and, in many cases, instrumental in bringing about the restoration and improvement of a considerable number of properties in the Borough, I believe that I can claim to have an interest in at least one aspect of conservation. My interest, however, does not extend to the restoration of properties which are of no real architectural or historic merit, which will never constitute more than "tolerable" units of accommodation, and the improvement of which is not really sought by the occupants or desired by the owners. I cannot see who benefits by this form of conservation and I certainly would not wish to live in its end products. For the future, therefore, I would hope for a greater realisation that, in some areas, to be truly effective, a conservation programme may need to include a degree of re-development.

Conservation and planning, of course, are closely related and I am pleased to record that all planning applications referred to the Council are being passed to this department for consideration. By this means it is hoped to effect a further safeguard against the possibility of environmental pollution and public health nuisance.

FOOTNOTE - Conservation means different things to different people. To me it includes the protection, from unnecessary pollution, of the air which we breathe. For this reason, I find it hard to understand why not all of those, who regard themselves as conservationists, are in favour of restrictions on smoking.

THE FUTURE

In last year's report I referred to the need to ensure that the organisation of the new district councils would be such as to allow environmental health functions to be kept together and controlled by a public health inspector. It was pleasing, therefore, to find that the Bains Report recommended that all environmental health functions and any others of environmental health significance should be grouped together in one comprehensive department. It was encouraging also to see that the Bains Committee, appreciating the wide responsibility for environmental matters which the chief public health inspector will bear after re-organisation, indicate that the chief environmental health officer should be a member of the management team, in average non-metropolitan districts. It seems to me that this latter is vital, if he is to act as the general adviser to the council on all aspects of environmental health and if he is to be free to comment on the environmental health significance of matters dealt with by other departments.

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Of course the Bains Report is purely an advisory document and the future of local government will depend, to a large extent, on the decisions taken by the new councils, after their election. In making these decisions, however, the new councils will, undoubtedly look for guidance from the existing councils; if they do not get such guidance, who are we to blame but ourselves if they make what we consider to be wrong decisions? It is with some concern, therefore, that, at the time of writing this report, I have learned of a reluctance on the part of existing councils (or their representatives, at least) to advise on certain matters. This, apparently, is because they are considered to be matters for determination by the new authority. It is my hope that this reluctance will be put aside and that the existing councils, with the help of their officers, will prepare clear-cut recommendations on such matters as Committee Structure, Management Structure, Departmental Structure, Departmental Functions and Establishment.

If 1973 promises to be the year when so many uncertainties should be resolved, it is also a year which seems likely to see proposals for or the actual introduction of much new legislation - particularly in relation to pollution.

It seems probable that noise legislation will be strengthened and that greater emphasis will be laid on the use of planning powers in combating the effects not only of noise but of air pollution. Odour suppression is at present being studied by a Working Party, the eventual report of which may result in additional legislation.

So far as food control is concerned it is possible that the report of the Foods Standards Committee may result in action relating to date marking. There is likely, too, to be further pressure for more control over the establishment of food business and for powers to close unhygienic premises.

Other legislative changes may result from:-

- (a) The recommendations of the Robens Committee report on workplaces etc.
- (b) Stronger powers for local authorities, associated with proposed changes in the licensing laws.
- (c) A Code of Practice being prepared, for the Secretary of State for the Environment, for the organisation and conduct of pop festivals.
- (d) The report of the Tented Camp Working Party.

All in all, 1973 could be quite a year!

HENLEY-ON-THAMES BOROUGH COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED

	NOTICES					
	SERVED		COMPLIED WITH		PARTLY COMPLIED WITH	
	Statu- tory	Infor- mal	Statu- tory	Infor- mal	Statu- tory	Infor- mal
Housing	-	22	-	5	-	1
Housing - Improvement Areas	-	7	-	2	-	3
Housing - Qualification Certificates	-	14	-	7	-	1
Food & Drugs Act 1955	-	11	-	11	-	-
Food Hygiene Regulations	-	44	-	20	-	3
Factories Act	-	3	-	1	-	-
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act	-	64	-	22	-	-
Petroleum Acts	-	17	-	9	-	3
Shops Acts	-	1	-	-	-	-
Public Health Act 1936, S89	-	4	-	-	-	-
Hairdressing	-	1	-	-	-	-
Noise	1	17	1	12	-	4
Caravans	-	5	-	5	-	-
Rodents	-	3	-	3	-	-
Miscellaneous Nuisances	3	29	3	20	-	8

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS

<u>Nature of Complaint</u>	<u>Number of Complaints</u>
Housing defects	9
Rent Act	7
Food	39
Noise	26
Atmospheric Pollution	13
Smell	4
Accumulations	10
Drainage	7
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act	1
Rodents	62
Wasps	49
Other Pests	31
Petrol	1
Food Hygiene	3
Miscellaneous	19

HENLEY-ON-THAMES BOROUGH COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

<u>Type of Inspection</u>	<u>Number of Inspections</u>
Housing - General	252
Housing - Improvement Areas	4
Housing - Qualification Certificates	37
Rent Act	6
Food Premises - Hygiene	131
Food Inspection	58
Food & Drugs Act (Registrations etc.)	4
P.H. Act 1936 S.89	24
Shops Acts	91
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963	108
Factories Act 1961	19
Petroleum Acts	48
Rodent Control	17
Pest Control	19
Noise	59
Atmospheric Pollution	25
Smell	5
Drainage	13
Accumulations	16
Water Supply	13
Pet Animals Act	2
Hairdressers - Byelaws	1
Caravans	8
National Assistance Act	2
Infectious Diseases	10
Health Education	4
Miscellaneous Nuisances	25
Miscellaneous	18

BICESTER URBAN DISTRICT

Public Health Inspector

D. M. TANNER, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Council Offices, The Garth, Bicester.

Tel: Bicester 2915/6

BICESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Atmospheric Pollution

This is an extensive subject, but in this paragraph refers to the discharge of smoke, dust ash and grit which pollute or cause nuisance.

There is no doubt that there is pollution of the Bicester atmosphere by smoke and industrial fumes. There will be an increase of these problems as the population increases and the industrial estate grows. The time for action is now, as a considerable number of the potential problems can be forestalled in initial stages. Unfortunately these are the problems that cannot be controlled under the present planning arrangements - this of course can only be done satisfactorily by authorities on the spot, having a say in planning. Of course to obviate every risk, a planner would have to be a prophet, so some unforeseen circumstances would always make nuisance.

Fortunately much of the control over atmospheric pollution, once the business is established, is with the local authority. This is effected by giving their permission to proposed boiler installations and chimney heights, and of course the control of the situation after it is constructed is theirs, but it is a pity that the planning permission for the process is not.)

Local authority policies over the heating of their Council houses form a valuable contribution to the reduction of pollution by smoke.

Consideration of atmospheric conditions is essential and background information for prevailing winds and inversion conditions have to be known when assessing smoke control, siting and heights of chimney. I am unable to give a detailed paper, because sufficient information has not yet been obtained, but research indicates that the wind is blowing across Bicester from the Industrial Estate for at least 60% of the year and there appears to be a regular inversion layer over the district. More information is needed to analyse any implications of these facts, but careful thought must be given to their inference.

Noise Abatement

There are several sources of noise in the area. Where complaints have been made to the Council, observations and enquiries are undertaken, and efforts to resolve the issue informally, are made. Where this is impossible, statutory proceedings have been taken to secure abatement. To date it has been necessary to take statutory action only in two cases, both against the same firm. Another firm is having a specialist examine the problem, and a third is experimenting with practical remedies. All came about through

BICESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

bad planning and failure by the management of each company to consider the possibility of nuisance. 90 visits, including many night visits, made.

There have been growing numbers of complaints about the aircraft noise from Upper Heyford, and noise from the increase in traffic volume. These are matters for reference to the appropriate government authorities, but the Council must not be complacent about these issues. There is a growing national feeling that the noise pressures of aircraft and traffic are an unwanted and unwarranted intrusion into our daily lives, and are reducing the quality of life. The government, in particular the Department of the Environment, is anxious that all steps be taken to reduce noises to a minimum. Various circulars have been published emphasising the value of planning authority control.

The national issues over aircraft are well-known and it would appear we have our share in Bicester. As they are "specifically exempted" then only the 'weight of public opinion' can be effective in bringing about a change.

Control of noise is not only envisaged for residential areas. Deleterious effects of noise on industrial and commercial workers is a reality and is also subject to limited control, which is likely to be increased.

With regard to working environment of the industrial worker, the Factory Inspectorate is attempting to tackle the issue from a workers side and has been active in Bicester. The Council are responsible for the welfare of workers. There are a couple of noise situations at present under review.

Pest Control

During the year this office undertook 144 treatments against rats and mice. This involved 383 visits by the Rodent Operator, and 58 visits by the Public Health Inspector.

50 sewer treatments were carried out on one sewer test baiting programme; this involved 167 visits by the Rodent Operator and 50 visits by the Public Health Inspector; also 21 pigeon trappings and 16 insect treatments were done. This is a total of 695 visits.

Trapping of pigeons was started on a proper basis, a cage being constructed to Ministry of Agriculture specifications, and placed on the roof of Midland Marts.

BICESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Several fruitless attempts were made, until a Council foreman came up with the magic answer, and since then the takes have been satisfactory. However, although the population of pigeons was reduced to reasonable proportions, the fouling of the Midland Marts building continued, as the nesting places were still in use by a reduced strength flock. The firm co-operated with my suggestions and employed Rentokil to treat the ledges of the building with bird repellent strip. So far the results have been satisfactory, and the situation is being watched. Insect Pests were not so demanding, as in the previous year. One or two exotic infestations were found. The department is equipped to deal with all infestation problems, and has so far achieved 99% success rate.

There has been an increase in the work on rats and mice control, this is partly due to increased incidence as well as to better staff availability, and also to the tackling of the issue, and not treating it as a Cinderella of the Council's work. The existing population will grow unless properly controlled, and another reason for increased treatment figures is there have been two successive mild winters and so there has been little natural destruction of rodents.

The demolition of the Rose and Crown, old Library, and Star Inn, removed pockets of deep seated infestations. The old refuse tip at the rear of Sheep Street remains as a problem, but development is soon to be undertaken which may solve this if the ground is compacted. The refuse tip has had several heavy infestations, which is being kept under control. Control on tips is not easy, the trouble is that there are many more desirable foods tipped than oatmeal and poison bait. Harbourage is good.

The sewer baiting exercise was successful, and staff permitting, plans are being made for other sections of the town to be covered. There are known infestations in the sewers, and systematic baiting would eliminate these.

There has been noted a few infestations that have been encouraged by the nature of the construction of the buildings; it is not generally appreciated that a building should be constructed so as to prevent the harbourage of vermin, and many shortcomings are noted; where the builders have not sealed joist ends, or made good the party wall between the roof spaces, or sealed around the drainage outlets and the service pipe inlets. These are common faults, associated with present trends in the building trade, and as the inspection facilities to cover these points are hardly

BICESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

likely to be made available, the solution is provided by curing after the problem is found.

Hairdressers

Bicester has ten hairdressing premises. Those visited during the year have adequate hygiene standards. Hairdressers are also places of employment, and are included in offices and shops figures.

Communicable diseases

The list of communicable diseases occurring in this district is given elsewhere by the Medical Officer of Health. 29 visits were made in connection with infectious diseases, and two visits were made in connection with alleged food poisoning.

Swimming Pool and Sports Centre

Thirteen visits were made to check the chlorine and pH status of the pool. Samples for bacterial analysis were also submitted for analysis. On no occasion was anything found unsatisfactory.

The Bar and Kitchen premises were routinely visited and apart from minor items found to be satisfactory.

(The offices and shops Act is administered by the Factory Inspectorate).

Drainage

131 visits have been made in connection with drainage defects and enquiries into drainage effluents.

Two drainage examinations were carried out, in one instance by private contractor, on a section 48 notice. No statutory notices have been served, all the work has been done informally. In one case a contractor had damaged some private sewers, and cost of the work was recovered by the Council.

Water Supplies

The town is supplied by the Oxford and District Water Board. As far as is known, all supplies are adequate and the occasional sample has been satisfactory. Time does not permit routine sampling. Some supplies to business premises have been questioned, but no insanitary conditions have known to have been caused.

There are a number of dwellings, which have inadequate supplies, and which are unfit for this and other reasons, these properties are being considered under "housing" and not included here.

BICESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Sanitary Accommodation

(In refreshment houses).

The Council's policy to enforce the Public Health Act 1936, section 89, on all refreshment houses has led to a number of protracted issues. In one case it was necessary to institute legal proceedings to enforce the notice. The Council's case was won, and also the Council's decision to make the occupier responsible for compliance was upheld by the court. In another instance, the property has passed into the hands of the Department of the Environment, and is scheduled for early clearance for a road widening scheme. It is not expected that the present cafe business will continue.

(In general)

Under the various acts and regulations, premises that have been found to have defective or inadequate sanitary accommodation have been dealt with. Also, and more practical, all plans that are submitted are checked to see if the sanitary accommodation is adequate for the employment of staff. On several occasions it was proved useful, and probably saved the developer costs. Public sanitary conveniences are visited routinely, and have always been found in a clean condition.

Litter

This issue is as big a problem as it was last year. Additional refuse bins have been sited by the Engineer and Surveyors Department, but the real solution is education of the "litter dropping masses".

Deposit of Poisonous Wastes

This new Act has placed upon the Local Authority the responsibility of recording of the movement of poisonous wastes, and controlling their dumping and illegal tipping. Bicester's involvement has so far been the documentation of the movement of wastes to the outside of the authority. Occasionally an enquiry has to be made into the composition of the waste that is to be moved, where the manufacturers details are inadequate. In Bicester there are a number of industrial plants using chemicals that require supervision, and monitoring. It is regretted that I am unable to attend to this as often as I would wish, it would be fair to say that most of the potential sources of nuisance or danger are known. Few visits have been made.

In consequence of the above and the drainage problems, it is expected

BICESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

that the Council will soon require Trade Effluent Agreements with industrial premises, under the 1936 and 1961 Public Health Acts.

Nuisances

In particular (noise and atmospheric smoke pollution dealt with earlier) have given rise to complaints by residents. There are industrial processes which give off offensive smells in Bicester, and are subject of current action. The co-operation of the firms involved have been willingly given to find ways of reducing the odours. 48 visits have been made, taking observations and negotiating with the factories management involved.

Watercourses

Eleven visits were made in connection with fouled or blocked watercourses where nuisance has arisen. There are a number of streams which are really field and railway embankment drainage ditches, but are part of the catchment areas feeding Thames tributaries. There is also a well defined main watercourse running through the Town. There are constant problems not only with nuisance and fouling, but with rats, as the streams provide good breeding grounds for vermin and suitable habitats for runs and communication between buildings. Some limited amount of routine baiting is done, but there is not the facilities to deal with this problem as regularly as is wished.

PETROLEUM ACTS

This year saw the coming into operation of the new codes of practice, for the participating Councils in the Oxfordshire area. All petroleum stations were visited and checked to see if they complied with the codes. Copies had been issued the previous year, so the information was available to the licensee. The usual omissions and failures to comply were noted and followed up. By the middle of June all stations were complying with the conditions, and were licenced. A total of 41 visits were made to petroleum installations for licensing and other purposes. There are now a total of eighteen installations, the gas plant installation having been demolished.

There were the following occurrences:-

One installation closed down.

The tanks which contained Naptha, were chemically cleansed and filled with water. During the demolition, the County fire brigade was notified.

BICESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

One tank was filled in with concrete and a larger tank installed on an adjacent site.

One petrol station ran tests on its tanks, suspecting leakages, which proved negative.

There was an accidental discharge of petroleum from the filling of a defective car tank, which was washed away by the fire brigade.

There was the abandonment of a site by the licensee; legal proceedings were considered, but not pursued.

The electricity strike produced some hazardous moments when well meaning station operators hitched up lawn mowers and the like to drive stricken pumps; the good intentions were there, but contraventions of the Acts and very hazardous conditions existed.

The only swing arm installation in town is annually considered for relicensing, and the owners are looking for an alternative site.

HEALTH SAFETY AND WELFARE

(In offices, shops and workplaces)

Factory Act sanitary accommodation regulations -only three visits were made in connection with these regulations, time has not permitted more. No notifications of any unsatisfactory conditions have been notified by the Factory Inspector to the Council. Twelve other visits were made to factories concerning industrial processes not mentioned elsewhere, where there was a public health connotation. There are no known factory outworkers in Bicester.

A total of 38 factories are now registered with the Council, and this is likely to increase as the industrial estate grows.

130 visits were made to Offices and Shops where 806 persons are employed. Not all of these visits were routine or detailed inspections. There are 127 registered premises.

Accidents are poorly notified, routine enquiries show that certain companies fail to notify accidents, and always because the local manager did not know, his head office failing to instruct him properly. There have been four notifications received, but only in three cases was it necessary to investigate. A total of four visits were made in connection with accidents.

BICESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HOUSING AND HOUSING ACTS

This office is responsible for the consideration of the state of older properties and ensuring they are kept in good repair. The second area survey report was presented at the beginning of the year, but little work has been possible on the next area. A total of 155 visits were made under the housing acts. 28 under the Public Health Acts to deal with housing complaints.

A current total of 298 houses have been inspected and their condition recorded. 160 houses are categorised as unfit, although the proportion that are "repairable at reasonable cost" is high.

One application for a qualification certificate was made, and granted. Rents Acts. No applications made.

Common lodging houses. None.

Caravan sites. None.

Caravans. Several visits and inspections to temporary caravans. A watch is kept on caravans used in connection with building works.

Housing in multiple occupation. Twelve. Routine and initial visits made to several, totalling 33 visits, and statutory action has been necessary in five instances to secure improvements.

FOOD ACTS AND FOOD CONTROL

(Slaughter-house and Meat inspection)

Number of Visits. 68

Animals inspected: 3 calves 91 sheep 284 lambs 362 pigs.

This is a total of 740 animals and represents a further drop in the total kill of 24% over last year. Since 1970 there has been a reduction of 59% in the kill, but the number of visits has increased, because killing is now done on two days, resulting in more work.

Rejected carcasses. Nil

Total weight rejected 396 lbs. consisting of liver, lungs, hearts and heads.

No evidence of tuberculosis was found. During the year a check was made on infected pig submaxillary glands, as a routine precaution for tuberculosis, in both cases the results showed infection by corynebacterium equivalent, confirming clinical diagnosis.

BICESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Conditions found were pleurisy, pneumonia, pericarditis, corynebacterium, equiv. Ascaris, Sclerosis, Necrosis, Filariasis, Fasciolosis, strongyloides, indurations, adhesions, severe bruising, Oedema, inflammation and ecto-parasites.

Once again I thank the staff of Ploughley for assisting with meat inspection during my absences.

Unfit Food

The following listed foods were surrendered voluntarily:-

- 3 lbs. bacon
- 130 lbs. 14 ozs. Ham
- 39 packets frozen fish
- 64 gallons ice cream plus 90 lbs. ice cream.
- 190 lbs. Fresh meat
- 748 packets frozen food.
- 1 gallon cockles
- 10 lbs. Jam
- 1 gallons pickles.
- 1 packet of crumpets
- 1 loaf bread
- 2286 cans.

Complaints

A number of complaints have been made to me about food which was unsatisfactory. All complaints have been investigated, and a total of 32 investigations made. Where appropriate a report has been submitted to the Committee. Legal proceedings have been taken on three occasions for sale of unsatisfactory food. In all three cases the Courts found for the Council.

Following is a list of complaints made:-

- Contaminated biscuits.
- Three mouldy loaves
- Crumpets-with foreign body
- Mouldy dough
- Larva in bacon joint
- "Flavoured" orange juice
- Stained pork meat
- Dented cans with mould

RECORD OF THE BOARD OF SURGEONS.

10. ... and
equiv.
... ..
... ..
... ..
... ..
... ..
... ..
... ..
... ..

General

- The
- 11 lbs.
- 40 lbs.
- 32 pounds
- 64
- 10 lbs.
- 74
- 1
- 2
- 1
- 1
- 1
- 2200

Complaints

number of complaints have been made to the
All complaints have been investigated, and a total of 32 visits made.
appropriate
have been taken on three
three cases the courts

- Following is a list of complaints made:-
-
- Three
- Trumpets with foreign body.
- Moulay dough.
- Larva in
-
-
-
-

BICESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mouldy canned baby foods.

Rancid butter.

Foreign body in fish.

Mouldy cheese.

Contaminated cockles.

Mouldy cottage cheese.

Maggot in can of soup.

Mouldy birthday cake.

Decomposed pork shoulder.

Decomposing corned beef.

Legal Proceedings

During the year the Council took legal action against Swifts, meat wholesalers of Northampton, for using an unsatisfactory and dirty delivery vehicle. Found guilty and fined £37 plus £12 costs. (Food Hygiene, Market Stalls, and Delivery Vehicles 1966).

Wah Hong for contravention of the food hygiene regulations and selling unsound food. Fined total of £65. (Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970 and Section 2, Food and Drugs Act, 1955).

Fine Fare, Bicester, for selling mouldy loaf of bread. Fine £10 and £10 advocates fees. (Section 2. Food and Drugs Act 1955).

Roberts and Birch Ltd. for selling a pork shoulder joint, containing maggots. Fined £10. £10 advocates fees and £10 analysis fees. (Section 113, Section 2, Food and Drugs Act 1955).

Burtons Biscuits, for selling biscuits contaminated by phenols; the firm were fined £5 for the offence and £10 solicitors and £13 analysts fees. (section 113. Section 2, Food and Drugs Act 1955).

In each instance it was necessary for the officer to attend court.

Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles

The market is inspected weekly. Apart from the time when the market was resited temporarily on the old library car park, and the dust swamped the stalls, the conditions have been acceptable.

29 formal visits were made and two verbal cautions were given.

Delivery vehicles are inspected when the occasion arises. 13 inspections were made this year, one resulting in legal proceedings,

BICESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

and in each case defects were noted and letters sent to the firm, and the driver, if applicable.

Registered Premises

Registered under Section 16 for the storage of Ice Cream.
Total 22 visits were made in connection with the above 10.

Registered for the manufacture of sausages, total 3. Visits made, total 4.

Two premises are registered for the take away food trade, and two visits were made this year.

BICESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL RETURN OF STATISTICS

1. Inspections, visits and interviews for statutory responsibilities.

Housing Acts

Housing inspection general	28
Unfit housing	61
Grant Aid	21
H.I.M.O.	33
Caravans	5
Miscellaneous	7

Public Health Acts

Infectious Diseases	29
Food poisoning	2
Sanitary accommodation	6
Drainage	131
Water supplies	1
Housing (including Council)	28
Nuisances general	42
Effluvia and dust	48
Noise	90
Poisonous wastes, accumulation and refuse, land and tips	25
Watercourses	11
Demolitions	5
Miscellaneous	16

Food Acts

Bakehouses	2
Butchers	9
Confectioners	2
Fishmongers	7
Fried Fish Shops	3
Sweet shops	1
Slaughterhouses	68
Take away food shops	2
Greengrocers	4

BICESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Food Acts, continued

Grocery and General stores.	41
Ice Cream storage	10
Licenced premises and clubs	7
Hotels, restaurants and snack bars	16
School kitchens	4
Staff canteens	Nil
Delivery vehicles	13
Investigation of complaints	32
Milk and dairies	5
Sampling	5
Miscellaneous	36

Atmospheric Pollution Act

Inspection of Installations	2
Smoke observations	12
Refuse burning	15

Factory Acts

Factories	15
-----------	----

Offices and Shops Act

	<u>Initial</u>	<u>R/Visit</u>	
Accident Investigation.	3	1	4
Offices	16	2	18
Shops retail	28	3	31
Warehouses	9	2	11
Other visits	2	64	66

BICESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Pest Control Acts

	<u>Visits by R.O.</u>		<u>Visits by</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Initial.</u>	<u>R/Visit</u>	<u>P.H.I.</u>	
Sewer baiting	167		50	217
Rats and mice	144	239	58	441
Pigeons	4		17	21
Insects	1		15	16
Others	5		10	15

Petroleum Acts

Installations both annual and routine	41
---------------------------------------	----

Other Visits and Premises inspected

Hairdressers	2
Allotments	1
Swimming Pools	13
Schools	5
No.access and miscellaneous visits	91

TOTAL VISITS	1893
--------------	------

Food Inspected

Carcasses	740
Other food, approx. total	16

Examination consent on plans

Submitted for approval under Housing acts	
Health Acts, Food Hygiene Regulations,	
Clean Air Acts, O.S.R.P. etc.	65

2. Complaints and Enquiries

Rodent	61
Insects	20

BICESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Complaints and Enquiries cont.

Food	28
Noise	18
Effluvia	13
Others	83

TOTAL COMPLAINTS	223
------------------	-----

Note:- original complaints only recorded.

3. Statistical returns. Annual review

Catering Establishments	29
Bakehouses	3
Butchers	6
Fish Fryers	3
Fishmongers	1
Ice Cream storage	1
Greengrocers	6
Confectioners	4
Off Licences	3
Grocers and super markets	16
Pubs and clubs	16
Sweets	8
Wholesalers	5
Hairdressers	10
Swimming pools	1
Wells (in use)	1
Markets	2

TOTAL	115
-------	-----

BICESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

4. Number of premises registered under various acts

Slaughterhouses	1
Slaughtermen	4
Dairies	9
Section 16 Food	25
Factories	43
O.S.R. premises. Offices	45
Shops	75
Warehouses	7
Houses in multiple occupation	12
Housing survey	298
Caravans	0
Unfit houses	160
Upholsterers	1
Petroleum Installations	18

TOTAL	698
-------	-----

5. Persons employed in registered premises

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Offices	135	108
Retail shops	155	389
Wholesale	14	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	304	502
	<hr/>	<hr/>

BICESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

6. Analysis of Notices served during year

	<u>Informal</u>	<u>Formal</u>	<u>Complied with</u>	<u>Prosecutions</u>
Public Health Acts	24	6	25	
Housing Acts	7	19	8	
Food Acts	2	19	15	5
Clean Air Act	3	1	1	
O.S.R.P.	6	1	5	
Factories Act	0	0	0	
Petroleum Act	0	3	3	

THAME URBAN DISTRICT

Public Health Inspector

K. Calcutt

M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Town Hall Thame

Thame 2834

THAME URBAN DISTRICT

1. HOUSING

6 Council Houses were built and occupied
 8 Houses built by private enterprise
 144 Housing applications were outstanding at 31.12.72.

2. CARAVANS

23 Caravans were on the Licensed Sites in the area.

3. INSPECTIONS MADE, NOTICES SERVED AND ORDERS MADE

Inspections under Public Health Act 1936	133
Inspections under Housing Act	195
Notices Served (Informal) under Public Health Act	17
Notices Served (Informal) Under Housing Act	3
Orders Made (Closing Orders - Houses)	Nil

4. ICE CREAM HEAT TREATMENT ETC. REG. 1947-52

No samples have been taken during the year. There are no manufacturers in the district.

5. FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

361 visits have been made to shops, market stalls and Restaurants during the year. Open foods and personal hygiene receiving strict attention.

6. NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES ACCORDING TO TYPE OF BUSINESS

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
General Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Supermarkets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

7. NUMBER OF PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 OF FOOD & DRUGS ACT 1955

Manufacture of Sausage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Fish Frying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chinese Restaurant (Take Away)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

8. CONDEMNED FOOD

Disposal by incineration and to Approved Contractors	
Meat and Offal	72,654 lbs.
Fish	364 lbs.
Frozen Foods	Nil
Other Foods	1,810 lbs.

TABLE A.
REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of Premises newly registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at the end of the year	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Offices	2	26	20
Retail Shops	3	58	41
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	Nil	5	1
Catering Establishments open to the Public			
Restaurants	Nil	6	2
Canteens	Nil	Nil	Nil
Fuel Storage	Nil	1	Nil
Totals	5	96	64

TABLE B.	
Number of visits of all kinds to Registered Premises (including General Inspection)	189

TABLE C.
ANALYSIS BY WORKPLACE OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES AT THE END OF THE YEAR

(1) Class of Workplace	(2) Number of Persons Employed		
	Male	Female	Total
Offices...	89	106	195
Retail Shops ...	128	195	323
Warehouses and Wholesale Departments ...	77	31	108
Catering Establishments open to the public ...	5	25	30
Canteens ...	-	-	-
Fuel Storage Depots	2	-	2
	301	357	658

SLAUGHTERHOUSE RECORDS FOR THE YEAR 1972

Animals	Heifers & Steers	Cows & Bulls	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Totals	
Number Killed	4617	349	40	10,990	31,448	47,444	
Number Inspected	4617	349	40	10,990	31,448	47,444	
Cases other than Tuberculosis or C.Bovis	4	8	9	19	189	229	
Cases of which some part organ was condemned	-1664--- ----)		10	1474	6,834	9,982	
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and C.Bovis	33.	74%	47.00%	13.58%	22.35%	21.51%	
<u>TUBERCULOSIS</u> Number of carcasses	-	1-	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	
Cases of which some part organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	128	128	
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.0	214%	Nil	Nil	0.4071%	0.2719%	
<u>HYSTICERCUS BOVIS</u> Number of carcasses	Nil	Nil				Nil	
Cases of which some part organ was condemned	-	39 -				39	
Cases affected with Tuberculosis and refrigerated	-	9 -				9	
Percentage of number inspected affected with C.Bovis	0.9	649%				0.102 %	
Number of animals accompanied by veterinary surgeons cert.	15	9	4	1	5	34	
Number of such animals condemned	3 2 parts	3 3 parts	1	1 Part	2	9 6 parts	
Weight in lbs of carcasses condemned	50	93	628	892	17,561	24,174	
Weight in lbs of part carcasses condemned	39	82	6	562	6,859	10,409	
Weight in lbs of organs condemned	17	245	75	3090	16,351	36,761	
Weight in lbs of meat condemned other than at time of slaughter.	---	---	---	---	---	1,310	
Weight of food condemned other than at slaughterhouse.	---	---	---	---	---	2,174	
Net weight of food condemned	26,320		709	4544	40,771	74,828	
Number Breeding animals	-	17 Bulls 332 Cows	-	9 Rams 2 Goats 469 Ewes	8 Boars 141 Sows	978	

BULLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

K.T. Jolley, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E.

DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

G.F. Tasker

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:

R. Mather

N.F. Pinnock

J. Fisher - (resigned 31.5.72)

D.G. Saffin - (appointed 3.7.72)

FUPIL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

R. Sheffield

COUNCIL OFFICES, LONDON ROAD,
WHEATLEY, OXFORD OX9 1YR.

Telephone: WHEATLEY 2121

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Part 1

1. Inspections made by Public Health Inspectors

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities.	19	10	NIL	NIL
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authorities.	109	125	NIL	NIL
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	41	36	NIL	NIL
TOTALS	169	171	NIL	NIL

2. Cases in which defects were found

No cases were found.

Part VIII

Outwork - Sections 133 and 134

Section 133

Nature of work

Number of Outworkers in August List

Wearing apparel - making etc.

7

Furniture and upholstery

1

TOTAL ...

8

—

Section 134

Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises NIL
 Notices served NIL Prosecutions NIL

WATER SUPPLY

The Rural District is served by two statutory water undertakers: Thames Valley Water Board and the Oxfordshire and District Water Board, the former providing supplies to the parish of Ewelme and parts of the parishes of Benson, Berrick Salome, Newington and Watlington, and the latter to the remainder of the Rural District.

The Thames Valley Water Board report that adequate quantities of water are available from boreholes at Cleave, near Goring, which is distributed via storage reservoirs at Woodcote, Nettlebed and Beggarbush, and a water tower at Cookley Green.

The Board state that on 12th June, 1972, a trace of diesel oil was found in water pumped from No. 3 borehole at Cleave. A very small amount passed into the distribution system, sufficient to cause isolated complaints in some parts of the area, but most of the contamination was removed at the works and receiving reservoir.

In all other respects, the supply was satisfactory in quantity and quality. Chemical analyses of water from Cleave Nos. 3 and 4 Boreholes indicate that it is a moderately hard water with slight alkalinity with low levels of flouride (less than 0.1 p.p.m.).

Water is supplied by the Oxfordshire and District Water Board from five boreholes and one reservoir, the natural fluoride levels of which are as follows:

	<u>Number of samples</u>	<u>Fluoride in mg/litres as F.</u>		
		<u>Max.</u>	<u>Min.</u>	<u>Average</u>
Berinsfield bore	4	0.7	0.5	0.6
Britwell bore	4	0.2	0.1	0.2
Kingston Blount bore	4	0.2	0.1	0.2
Lewknor bore	4	0.1	Nil	<0.05
Watlington bore	4	0.1	Nil	<0.05
15" main from Horspath Reservoir	24	0.3	0.1	0.2

The water supply to the area has been satisfactory in quality and quantity and no action has been necessary in respect of any form of contamination.

The number of dwellings and the number of the population supplied from public water mains to houses throughout the rural district is set out on the next page. No dwellings are provided with a standpipe supply.

Bacteriological examination of supplies by Public Health Inspectorate

Three satisfactory samples of water were taken from public mains supplies; two from Littlemore and one from Woodeaton.

The following samples were taken from private supplies with unsatisfactory samples shown in brackets:

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Source of Supply</u>	<u>Numbers</u>
Berrick Salome	Shallow wells	3 (3)
Drayton St. Leonard	Borehold	1 (0)
Great Haseley	Deep well	1 (1)
Great Milton	Shallow well	1 (1)
Little Milton	Shallow well	1 (1)
Marsh Baldon	Shallow well	2 (2)
Stanton St. John	Deep well	1 (0)

The reports on shallow well supplies show that they are invariably unreliable. The deep well at Great Haseley proved to be only slightly contaminated, and water purification plant was afterwards installed.

Parish	Mains water direct to houses			Totals 31.12.72.	Population supplied 31.12.72.
	Totals 31.12.71	Year 1972 connections made			
		New houses	Old houses		
Adwell	—	—	—	—	—
Aston Rowant	214	—	2	216	647
Beckley & Stowood	158	5	—	163	643
Benson	961	2	—	970	3526
		*2	*5		
Berinsfield	789	5	—	794	2360
Berrick Salome	72	2	5	79	222
Brightwell Baldwin	59	—	1	60	177
Britwell Salome	49	—	—	49	129
Chalgrove	663	9	—	672	1879
Chinnor	1536	46	—	1582	4652
Clifton Hampden	193	—	—	193	534
Crowell	23	2	—	25	60
Cuddesdon & Denton	139	1	—	140	439
Culham	109	3	1	113	420
Cuxham w. Easington	47	—	—	47	164
Dorchester	284	4	—	288	983
Drayton St. Leonard	96	1	—	97	241
Elsfield	35	—	—	35	101
Ewelme	263	*2	—	265	793
Forest Hill w. Shotover	225	3	—	228	754
Garsington	407	2	—	409	1361
Great Haseley	179	2	1	182	526
Great Milton	248	1	—	249	822
Holton	68	2	—	70	255
Horspath	457	2	—	459	1618
Lewknor	138	10	—	148	441
Little Milton	115	2	2	119	344
Littlemore	2186	3	—	2189	7687
Marsh Baldon	90	3	2	95	307
Marston	1180	24	2	1206	4777
Newington	39	—	—	39	128
Nuneham Courtenay	55	—	—	55	165
Pyrton	33	—	—	33	98
Risinghurst & Sandhills	988	49	—	1037	3620
Sandford-on-Thames	115	3	—	118	443
Shirburn	38	—	—	38	96
Stadhampton	238	3	6	247	797
Stanton St. John	133	2	—	135	752
Stoke Talmage	25	1	—	26	73
Sydenham	94	2	1	97	266
Tetsworth	170	8	—	178	569
Thomley	—	—	—	—	—
Tiddington w. Albury	163	—	9	172	536
Toot Baldon	43	—	—	43	125
Towersey	136	2	—	138	432
Warborough	318	17	—	335	1087
Waterperry	50	—	—	50	165
Waterstock	28	—	—	28	101
Watlington	727	14	1	742	2432
Wheatfield	14	—	—	14	44
Wheatley	1149	2	6	1157	4096
Woodeaton	23	—	—	23	58
TOTALS ...	15562	237 *4	39 *5	15847	52945
		241	44		

Suppliers: Oxfordshire and District Water Board

*Thames Valley Water Board

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

212 connections were made to the sewers during the year; 65 of these to old properties.

Although the schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal to serve Great Haseley and Little Milton were completed in 1971, their operation was delayed by the lack of electrical power to the pumping stations until March 1972. The operation of the new sewerage scheme to serve Marsh Baldon was delayed during the same period by similar circumstances.

760 yards of 6-inch diameter sewer and 150 yards of 3-inch diameter rising main, including the provision of laterals, had been laid by April 1972 in the scheme of sewerage to serve Elsfield. The sewage disposal works was completed in June and the whole system became operational in September 1972.

In September, 2800 yards of 6-inch diameter sewer had been laid in the sewerage scheme to serve Cuddesdon and Denton, and the majority of lateral connections provided. Work on laying the pumping main and constructing the sewage disposal works and pumping station has since proceeded slowly caused mainly by the delay in completing the Ladder Hill section of sewer and pumping station, and consequently the scheme is unlikely to be completed before March or April 1973.

Steady progress continues to be made on the scheme of sewerage to serve Cuxham : all the 6-inch diameter sewer is laid, approximately half the lateral connections provided, and construction of the underground pumping station finished.

All sewers and laterals in the extension of the Wheatley sewerage system to serve Ladder Hill have been laid, but manhole benchings and channels are still uncompleted. The pumping station at Coombe House is under construction and progressing satisfactorily.

Work commenced in June 1972 on the Chinnor Sewage Disposal Works extension. At the end of the year good progress was being maintained: storm tanks finished, humus tanks virtually completed, and concreting of walls in sedimentation tanks proceeding.

The contract for providing Sludge Pressing Plants at Benson and Chinnor commenced in the Spring. On each site, lime silos have been delivered and erected; 'bridge' mechanism and stirrers for the conditioning and mixing tanks delivered; and the brickwork to the sludge press building at Benson is nearing completion; as soon as the roof is completed, the press equipment, machinery and pumps, which are on site, can be installed.

To improve the production of satisfactory effluent, minor modifications have been made to the equipment at Horspath Sewage Disposal Works, including the provision of pumps for recirculating the sludge automatically as well as pumping the sludge to drying beds.

Temporary pumping equipment has been installed at Sandford (Henley Road) Pumping Station to replace old, worn out pumps until new pumps incorporating a macerating process are delivered and installed.

The Oxfordshire County Council have gone ahead with a scheme of surface water drainage covering the area of Old Marston north of Marston Brook towards which the District Council is contributing a proportion of the cost. This includes the covering in of the brook which is at the moment a potential hazard to persons especially children using the adjoining road.

Owing to the deterioration of the sewage disposal works at Chalgrove, approval has been given by the Department of the Environment to carry out extensions and replacements including relaying the in let and outfall sewers.

A tender has been recommended for acceptance for a scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal to serve Lewknor.

The Council is applying to the Department of the Environment for grant aid towards the cost of a scheme to sewer the area of Roke and Roke Marsh in the parish of Benson. Application is also being made for approval of a combined scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal to serve Tiddington, Waterperry and Waterstock, but excluding the hamlet of Draycot.

Planning approval is being sought for the siting and construction of the sewage disposal works in conjunction with the proposed sewerage of Milton Common, and negotiations to purchase the land is in hand.

New pumps have been fitted in the Rippington Drive Pumping Station at Old Marston, to meet overloaded conditions and the demand of a new private housing development at Salford Road which will also be served by a pumping station on the site.

A price is being negotiated for the construction of a pumping station and rising main to serve the hamlet of Burcot in the parish of Clifton Hampden, to be drained to the existing Burcot Sewage Disposal Works.

Services which have been obstructing the flow of water in Wheatley Bridge culvert have been diverted and the end of the culvert repaired.

The Council has adopted as public sewers small estate sewers at Page Furlong Dorchester on Thames, and a length of private sewer at Church Lane Sandford; and recommended the adoption of the spine sewer to a new private estate at Oakley Lane, Chinnor, subject to a contribution by the developers for the laying, maintenance and repair of the sewer during a period of 12 months.

New public conveniences at Shotover were opened to the public in August although no electricity supply was available. Despite repeated requests the Electricity Board had not, at the year end, provided this service.

The Council recommend that they accept responsibility for maintaining public conveniences on trunk roads subject to suitable reimbursement by the County Council. They have also suggested to the Department of the Environment that no further conveniences of this kind be provided at this stage on trunk roads in their District.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The new Littleworth, Wheatley Refuse Tip (part of the old railway cutting) was brought into use in May. Some initial problems with drainage were overcome by piping in the stream from the tipping area through to a point near Littleworth Bridge. A proposal to transfer the Seerdrum to this site from Wheatley Bridge was not accepted but it was recommended that this action should be considered by the County Council when the new districts were formed in 1974.

The Council are negotiating for the acquisition from British Rail of a disused railway cutting between Tiddington and North Weston for use of a refuse tip.

They have also recommended that a survey be made of their Benson Sands Tip by Harwell Atomic Research Establishment for the presence of toxic, noxious or polluting substances in connection with their responsibilities under the Deposit of Waste Act 1972. The tip is no longer used for the disposal of household refuse but used solely by a branch of the local motor industry, subject to contract, for disposal of industrial waste.

HOUSING

During the year 1972, the following 47 dwellings were erected by the Council:

- 6 - one bedroom flats at Dorchester-on-Thames
- 1 - two bedroom warden's flat at Dorchester-on-Thames.
- 8 - one bedroom flats at Kingston Blount.
- 6 - one bed-sitters at Kingston Blount.
- 1 - two bedroom warden's flat at Kingston Blount.
- 10 - three-bedroom houses at Old Marston.
- 15 - one bedroom flats at Risinghurst.

At the end of the year the following 62 dwellings were under construction:

- 3 - one bedroom bungalows at Beckley.
- 2 - two bedroom bungalows at Beckley.
- 4 - one bedroom flats at Chinnor.
- 6 - one bed-sitters at Chinnor.
- 1 - two bedroom warden's flat at Chinnor.
- 4 - one bedroom flats at Culham.
- 2 - two bedroom flats at Culham.
- 4 - one bedroom flats at Forest Hill.
- 6 - one bed-sitters at Forest Hill.
- 1 - two bedroom warden's flat at Forest Hill.
- 6 - three bedroom houses at Great Haseley.
- 8 - two bedroom flats at Shillingford.
- 2 - two bedroom flats at Towersey.
- 4 - one bedroomed flats at Watlington.
- 6 - one bed-sitters at Watlington.
- 1 - two bedroom warden's flat at Watlington.
- 2 - three bedroom houses at Wheatley.

The following schemes are prepared and approved and tenders are being sought acceptable to the housing cost yardstick:

10 - Old Peoples' flats and wardens flat, land at rear of shops, Fane Drive, Berinsfield.

- 4 - three bedroom houses, Westcroft, Berinsfield.
- 2 - three bedroom houses at Greenwood Avenue, Chinnor.
- 4 - two bedroom flats at Green Lane, Ewelme.
- 2 - two bedroom flats at Orchard Way, Littlemore.
- 10 - two bedroom flats at Park Way, Old Marston.
- 4 - two bedroom flats at Thame Road, Sydenham.
- 2 - one bedroom flats at Thame Road, Sydenham.
- 10 - Old Peoples' flats at Old Depot, Roman Road, Wheatley.
- 1 - Warden's flat at Old Depot, Roman Road, Wheatley.
- 2 - Two bedroom flats at Greenwood Avenue, Chinnor.

The following proposals are at various stages: in preparation of designs and layouts or negotiations to acquire land:

- Land at Otmoor Lane, Beckley, for old peoples' accommodation.
- 10 - three bedroom houses, 3 shops, 14 old peoples' flats, warden's flat, public conveniences, and public car park at High Street, Benson.
- 10 - old peoples' flats and wardens flat at Crown Lane, Benson.
Land adjacent to Bypass and at rear of Brookside Chalgrove.
- 12 - bungalows at Watlington Road, Cuxham.
- 2 - two bedroom flats, Denton Road, Garsington.
- 2 - pairs three bedroom houses behind Tenpenny, Dorchester-on-Thames.
- 1 - pair three bedroom houses between Nos. 3 and 5 Tenpenny, Dorchester-on-Thames.
- 10 - old peoples' flats and warden's flat at Drayton St. Leonard.
Approximately 18 houses on land at Kingston Blount.
- 21 - three bedroom houses at Weston Road, Lewknor.
- 28 - three bedroom houses and 12 - two bedroom flats at Thomson Terrace, Littlemore.
- 2 - pairs of one bedroom bungalows at Downside Road, Risinghurst.
- 4 - two bedroom flats at Marsh Baldon.
- 4 - two bedroom flats at Marsh End, Tetsworth.
- Land at Cuxham Road, Watlington.
- Land at rear of Car Park, Church Street, Watlington.
- Land at Roman Road, Wheatley.

No dwellings have been erected by any other local authority.

100 private enterprise dwellings were built in the following localities:

Chinnor (18); Wheatley (15); Risinghurst (14); Watlington (9); Postcombe (8); Marston (6); Sydenham (4); Berrick Salome and Stanton St. John (3 each); Aston Rowant, Benson, Dorchester, Forest Hill and Little Milton (2 each); and Beckley, Britwell Salome, Garsington. Holton, Horspath, Kingston Blount, Milton Common, South Weston, Tetsworth and Tiddington (1 each).

CARAVANS

At 31st December, 1972 the Council had licensed under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, 125 caravan sites in their District accommodating 961 caravans, including the Council's own residential site at Old Marston previously with accommodation for 62 caravans but now run-down and on which only 9 caravans are stationed, and The Slade Gypsy Temporary Caravan Site (Parish of Horspath) of Oxford Corporation with accommodation for 15 Caravans. The Council's Gypsy Caravan Site at Sandford-on-Thames, provided under the Caravan Sites Act, 1968 accommodates 10 caravans. Approximately 878 caravans were stationed on all the foregoing sites.

During the year the Council have granted site licenses to accommodate the number of caravans stated below;

	Sites	Number of caravan sites which can accommodate				
		1 van	2 vans	3 vans	15 vans	25 vans
New applications	7	5	1	-	1	-
Renewal applications	24	16	5	2	-	1
TOTALS	31	21	6	2	1	1

and have varied licences in respect of the following sites:

- (a) Littleworth Caravan Park, Wheatley (80 caravans)
- (b) Wrights Platt, Northend, Watlington (one caravan)

Licences endorsed to enable transfer to new owners.

The Council have considered an application from the owner of Littleworth Caravan Park, Wheatley (80 caravans) to vary the licence conditions so as to allow all communal sanitary and ablution facilities to be closed down, subject to 12 months notice to existing residents, and prohibit new or replacement vans on the site without built-in facilities; main drainage and water connections would be provided to each pitch. A Sub-Committee of the Council is to inspect the site and submit their recommendations.

A terminal licence was granted to the owner of Stepping Hill Field Caravan Site, Icknield Way, Chinnor, to accommodate the remaining six occupied caravans. The site is subject to running-down conditions imposed by the Secretary for the Environment in a planning consent granted on 7th December 1971 and to its closure on or before 6th December 1972. The Council are considering whether the remaining occupants can be accommodated on an alternative site.

Responsibility for maintaining The Slade Gypsy Caravan Site (Parish of Horspath) was relinquished by the Council on 1st May 1972 - when their Sandford Gypsy Site was opened - and accepted by Oxford Corporation as a temporary site until their permanent site was ready for occupation. The occupants of the site, particularly the itinerant members, continued to present problems caused by their unhygienic and unruly practices and complete lack of responsibility, but some order was maintained by cleaning up the site from time to time, repairing water and electrical services, clearing ditches, and removal of filth and rubbish. The site was reasonably tidy when handed over to the Corporation.

The Sandford Gypsy Caravan site was opened at the end of April 1972 by accommodating ten of the 'local' gypsy families at The Slade - another four pitches would be available later. To ensure better means of control the Council has formed a sub-committee to manage the site, the members of which are drawn from elected members of the District, County and Parish Councils. The occupants of the site have settled down and, apart from minor incidences, there appears to be a resolve to improve their way of life. The Council are, however, very much aware that this placidity may at any time be upset by trespassers; they have therefore appointed a part-time warden; considering arrangements to obtain maximum security; and suggested ways in which the residents may participate in the social and ancillary services.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

There are no known dwellings within the district which are the subject of licensing under Section 269, Public Health Act. 1936.

COUNCIL HOUSE LETTINGS

During the year 167 families were rehoused by the Council:

- 58 - Berinsfield from Berinsfield (30): other L.A. areas (13)
Culham, Ewelme, Littlemore and Stadhampton (2 each): and
Benson, Chalgrove, Garsington, Marsh Baldon, Stanton St. John,
Warborough and Wheatley (1 each).
- 3 - Britwell Salome from Britwell Salome, Berinsfield and other
L.A. areas (one each).
- 2 - Chalgrove from Chalgrove.
- 1 - Chinnor from Chinnor.

- 3 - Cuddesdon from Cuddesdon, Wheatley and other L.A. areas (one each).
- 9 - Dorchester-on-Thames from Dorchester (4); other L.A. areas (2); and Berinsfield, Britwell Salome and Littlemore (one each).
- 1 - Ewelme from Ewelme.
- 3 - Forest Hill from Forest Hill, Stanton St. John and other L.A. areas (one each).
- 2 - Garsington from Garsington and other L.A. areas (one each).
- 3 - Great Milton from Great Milton (2); and Berinsfield.
- 14 - Kingston Blount from Kingston Blount (6); Chinnor (3); and Aston Rowant, Ewelme, Postcombe, Tetsworth and Watlington (one each).
- 1 - Lewknor from Chinnor.
- 2 - Little Milton from Great Milton and Little Milton (one each).
- 18 - Littlemore from Littlemore (10); other L.A. areas (3); and Beckley, Marston, Risinghurst, Sandford and Wheatley (one each).
- 13 - Old Marston from Old Marston (10); and other L.A. areas (3).
- 14 - Risinghurst from other L.A. areas (5): Garsington, Littlemore and Risinghurst (2 each); and Cuddesdon, Horspath and Shotover (one each).
- 1 - Sandford from Old Marston.
- 1 - Stanton St. John from Berinsfield.
- 4 - Tetsworth from Tetsworth, and other L.A. areas (2 each).
- 4 - Towersey from other L.A. areas (3); and Waterstock.
- 1 - Waterperry from Garsington.
- 9 - Wheatley from Wheatley (5); and Berrick Salome, Forest Hill, Horspath and Watlington (one each).

DEMAND FOR HOUSING

At the end of 1972 there were 1027 applications for Council Housing outstanding. It is estimated that 623 dwellings are required to replace unfit dwellings and meet the demand for modern housing.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are none of these premises in the Rural District.

HOUSING ACTS, 1949-1972: IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Applications for discretionary grants were received in respect of 17 dwellings involving conversions and 95 dwellings involving improvements; and applications for standard improvements grants were received in respect of 10 dwellings.

Discretionary Grants were approved in respect of conversions for 9 owner-occupied dwellings and 9 other dwellings; and in respect of improvements in 48 owner-occupied dwellings and 32 other dwellings. Standard Grants were approved for 5 owner-occupied dwellings and 3 other dwellings, all to the full standard (normal limits).

The Council has paid £8,621 in discretionary grants for 10 converted dwellings and £32,106 for 54 improved dwellings. £718-50 was paid in standard grants for 6 owner-occupied dwellings in which fixed baths were provided in 4 dwellings; wash hand basins in 5; hot and cold water supplies in 6; and water closets in 2.

No applications were received for special improvement grants (i.e. houses in multiple occupation).

HOUSING ACT 1969

LITTLEMORE 69/1 GENERAL IMPROVEMENT AREA

In the Annual Report for 1971 a summary was given of the initial survey of the Area, but, to recapitulate, and in more detail, the general statistics of the area are:

<u>Houses</u>	Council dwellings		
	Privately rented dwellings	54	
	Owner-occupied dwellings	<u>161</u>	...224
<u>Other Properties</u>	Offices	1	
	Shops	8	
	Public Houses	3	
	Small businesses	3	
	Residential caravans	<u>1</u>	... 16
	<u>TOTAL PROPERTIES</u>	...	... 240

Summary of housing details:

Dwellings without standard amenities	... 119
Dwellings with standard amenities	... 105

In the 119 dwellings not possessing all the standard amenities, the 12-point standard - to meet the qualification for an improvement grant - is lacking in respect of the following stated amenities. It should be noted that the totals do not equate with the total number of dwellings since each dwelling will not necessarily lack all, and may lack only one, of the standard amenities.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Requirements to 12-point standard</u>	<u>Dwellings</u>		<u>Owner-</u>	<u>Totals</u>
		<u>Council</u>	<u>Privately rented</u>	<u>occupied</u>	
1.	Good state of repair and substantially free from damp...	6	18	29	53
2.	Each room properly lighted and ventilated ...	-	3	4	7
3.	Adequate supply of wholesome water inside the dwelling...	-	-	1	1
4.	Adequate supply of hot water for domestic use ...	6	14	12	32
5.	Internal water closet if possible; alternatively, readily accessible ...	5	14	14	33

6. Fixed bath or shower in bathroom	...	6	13	13	32
7. Adequate sink with suitable drainage	...	-	1	1	2
8. Possess a proper drainage system	...	-	-	1	1
9. Adequate points for gas or electrical heating	...	2	3	3	8
10. Adequate facilities for heating	...	1	2	1	4
11. Adequate facilities for preparing and cooking food	...	1	2	1	4
12. Provision for storing fuel	...	1	3	3	7

The area is contained within boundaries which roughly follow: to the north, the Eastern By-Pass; to the west, Oxford Road from the roundabout to the junction with Cowley Road; and to the east and south, Cowley Road from the By-Pass flyover to the junction with Oxford Road, including College Lane.

It is in essence the old village of Littlemore, predominantly residential, many of the dwellings being about 100 years old, surrounded by housing estates laid out since 1945. A general air of neglect envelopes the area caused mainly by substandard roadways, paving, street furniture and lack of trees, shrubs and grass areas. The character of the old dwellings should be preserved but they need modernising and there is a substantial need for garage and car parking areas; additional recreational facilities; cleansing of vacant lots; and provision of pedestrian precincts.

The local authorities recommend that specific environmental improvements could be made by:

- (a) acquiring land for garaging and car parking in the area between Oxford Road and Longwall;
- (b) improving the highway and lighting standard of Longwall;
- (c) raising the general standards of highways and lighting throughout the whole area by resurfacing, realignments, and resiting of street furniture;
- (d) carrying out a scheme of tree planting and landscaping of grass verges and small land plots;
- (e) conducting a traffic survey to ascertain whether vehicular accesses may be restricted or traffic flows reduced;
- (f) cleansing of vacant land;
- (g) providing play areas, ball game parks and playground;
- (h) providing grants to property or expenditure on certain projects by District Council from contributions by the Department of the Environment.

The Council formally declared the area as a General Improvement Area, at their meeting in May 1972, and notices of their resolution have been published in the local newspapers.

At a public meeting held in August, the purposes of Part II of the Act were explained to the residents and provisional proposals offered for their consideration. It was also suggested, and this was later taken up, that area community associations should be formed so that they could formulate views on the amenities their locality lacked and offer constructive proposals for improvements.

A number of meetings have been held by the group associations and their suggestions presented to the County Highways and Planning Department who are preparing a draft scheme of environment improvements.

In order to encourage the repair and improvement of dwellings, an appointments system has been devised whereby confidential discussions can take place with owners of property and information given on the assistance the Council can offer, explained greater detail.

A meeting was held in December by the officers of the County and District Councils to consider the environmental improvement plan being drawn up by the District Council's Engineer and Surveyor. When the plan is completed, the County Council will advise on what amendments may be necessary to bring it into line with their draft scheme, after which the completed proposals will be presented to the residents at another public meeting.

The Littlemore Parish Council is being kept informed of procedural developments and the group residents' associations have been advised that they should now combine so that their joint representation will facilitate discussion, and the practical applications of proposals, at the public meeting and future meetings.

HOUSING ACTS 1969-1972 : QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES

Applications for certificates accompanied by applications for discretionary improvement grants were received in respect of 3 dwellings. Provisional certificates have been granted in respect of 3 dwellings for which discretionary grants have been approved, and a final certificate in respect of one dwelling where works have been completed with the assistance of a discretionary grant.

Applications for standard grants accompanied by applications for qualification certificates were received in respect of 3 dwellings and provisional certificates have been issued for two of these dwellings.

Applications for certificates were received in respect of seven dwellings claimed to possess the standard amenities and satisfying the qualifying conditions; and applications outstanding from the year 1971 were brought forward in respect of 32 dwellings. Certificates have been granted for 7 dwellings refused for 2 dwellings and consideration deferred in respect of 30 dwellings until minor defects in those dwellings have been remedied by the owners.

HOUSING ACTS 1957-1969 : UNFIT HOUSES

(a) Houses dealt with in year by formal action

(i) Houses reported as unfit for human habitation:

and beyond repair at a
reasonable expense

Beckley 3
Watlington .. 1

but repairable at a reasonable
expense (Notice under Section 9
Housing Act, 1957, served)

Marston 1

(One dwelling at Beckley demolished soon after report made).

and Demolition Orders sealed

Little Milton ... 2

- (ii) Proposals approved permitting the reconstruction of houses subject to Demolition Orders:

Benson1 (Extension of former permission).
Great Haseley ... 1

- (iii) Houses repaired and improved after submission of proposals permitting the reconstruction of houses subject to:

<u>Demolition Orders</u>	<u>Closing Orders</u>
Beckley 2	Garsington 1
Holton 3	

- (iv) Houses demolished previously subject to:

<u>Demolition Order</u>	<u>Closing Order</u>	<u>Undertaking not to relet</u>
Watlington ... 1	Wheatfield ...1	Wheatfield 1

- (v) Houses in which defects were remedied after formal notice under the Public Health Acts:

Marston 6

- (b) Persons and families displaced from houses to be closed:

Families ... 1 Persons 1

- (c) Department of Environment Circular 50/72 - Slums and Older Housing - An Overall Strategy.

In accordance with the requirements of this Circular, the following estimate of the condition of housing stock in mid-1972 has been supplied to the Department of the Environment. The Council are considering an outline of strategy for dealing with the unfit houses and those capable, and incapable, of improvement to the 12-point standard.

	<u>Owned by Local Authorities</u>	<u>Other Ownership</u>
(a) <u>Unfit dwellings</u>		
Not in areas declared under Part III, Housing Act, 1957 ...	-	139
(b) <u>Dwellings not unfit</u>		
(i) Up to 12-point standard	4446	11785
(ii) Capable of improvement to 12-point standard.	6	751
(iii) Not capable of improvement to 12-point standard.	10	180
TOTAL DWELLINGS IN AREA ...	4462	12855

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 50 - BURIALS

The Council were required to arrange for the cremation of a person who died at Risinghurst without relations who could undertake this duty.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The annual report to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food shows that:

584 properties were inspected;
559 in response to complaints received; and
309 reinspections were made.

448 of these properties were found to be infested with rats; and

92 to be infested with mice; all of which were treated, and including:

30 retreatments.

DESTRUCTION OF WASPS' AND OTHER INSECT PESTS

76 visits were made to destroy wasps' nests during the summer and autumn on the contractual basis of 50p per treatment. 91 other visits were made during the year to destroy other insect pests.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

The annual report to the Department of the Environment, on proceedings under the Act, is summarised below:

Table A - Registration and General Inspections

<u>Class of Premises</u>	<u>Number of premises registered during the year</u>	<u>Total number of registered premises at end of year</u>	<u>Number of registered premises requiring one or more general inspections during the year</u>
Offices ...	-	63	43
Retail shops ...	1	91	82
Wholesale shops, warehouses ...	2	12	6
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	17	17
Fuel storage depots	-	3	3
TOTALS ...	3	186	151

Table B - Number of visits of all kinds (including general inspections) to registered premises ... 413

Table C - Analysis by workplace of persons employed in registered premises at the end of the year

<u>Class of Workplace</u>	<u>Number of persons employed</u>
Offices ...	1079
Retail shops ...	366
Wholesale shops, warehouses ...	188
Catering establishments open to the public ...	109
Canteens ...	15
Fuel storage depots ...	11
TOTAL ...	1768

Total males ... 805 Total females ... 963

Table D - Exemptions .. Nil Table E - Prosecutions .. Nil

Table F - Staff .. 5

Notification of Accidents

	<u>Sex and Age</u>	<u>Workplace</u>	<u>Causation</u>	<u>Injury</u>	<u>Nature of Injury</u>	<u>Site of Injury</u>
1.	Female - 52	Canteen	Handling tea trolley	non-fatal	strain	neck
2.	Male - 52	Warehouse	Fall from one level to another	non-fatal	bruising	back
3.	Female - 21	Office	Handling stationery	non-fatal	strain	back

None of these accidents called for any action under the Act.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

The noise emitted from wood drying kilns at a Chinnor woodyard previously reported in 1969 as being a nuisance to adjoining residents, recurred owing, among other things, to the breakdown of factory equipment, but this has been minimized by curtailing its use; consultants have been asked to give advice on overcoming the problem.

A resident of Stadhampton complained that the barking of dogs at the local animal sanctuary caused sleepless nights. His complaint was, upon investigation, not supported by persons living in closer proximity to the kennels and it seemed that the intensity of the noise was not sufficient to justify any statutory action.

Complaints were received of noise from extractor fans and weaving equipment at two light industrial factories at Marston; and the hum from deep freezers at a Watlington stores. Steps have been taken to minimize these nuisances by providing insulation or modifying the apparatus.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1964

Three dealers were again registered during the year. There are fifteen dealers on the register, eight of whom occupy premises used as scrap metal stores.

CLEAN AIR ACTS 1956-1968

One application was received and approved to install an oil fired boiler with chimney height of 20 feet, to provide warm air heating at a new indoor bowling green at Littlemore.

The practice of stubble burning recurs each year, and in late years becomes much more serious where lack of consideration and control by the fireraisers causes offence to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, imposes additional hazards to drivers of vehicles on adjacent roads, and is especially dangerous to high fire risk buildings. There appears to be a need for more adequate supervision over this practice by regulations which ensure suitable times for firing and provision of sufficient fire breaks.

A similar kind of offence is that of burning motor vehicle scrap, usually those items such as old tyres, plastic material, and so on, which cause the greatest amount of smoke and effluvia. The Acts provide measures to take proceedings against offenders but invariably the offence has already taken place and legal action does not offer consolation to those who have suffered.

A number of minor nuisances arise from burning of trade wastes by shopkeeper and the managers of light industrial premises, who appear to consider that they derive greater benefit by doing so subject to the tolerance of their neighbours, than paying for the collection and disposal of wastes by the Council.

LEWKNOR AIR RESEARCH STATION

Owing to the construction and future use of the M.40 Motorway, the Warren Spring Laboratory of the Department of Trade and Industry, upon whose behalf regular atmospheric recordings were maintained at this Station by the Council, decided to close down the Station as it would no longer be of use for recording of low level or background amounts of air pollution.

The Council have expressed their appreciation for the use of the water pumping station, during the past seven years, to house the equipment, to the Oxfordshire and District Water Board, and for supplying weather records over this period to the Meteorological Officer of R.A.F. Station, Benson.

LICENSING ACT 1964

Inspections were made of eight clubs for which application for licensing had been received by the Clerks to the Justices, all of which complied with the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

BETTING AND GAMING ACT 1968

The Council has granted permission for the installation of machines which provide amusements with prizes at a coin-operated launderette at Wheatley and at a cafe at Milton Common.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENT ACT 1963 PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

Approval has been given for renewal of licences to keep eight premises as boarding establishments. They provide accommodation for 344 dogs and 143 cats.

A garden centre at Wheatley is also licensed as a pet shop for the sale of birds and cold water fish.

THE DEPOSIT OF POISONOUS WASTE ACT 1972

This Act, which received the Royal Assent on 30th March, 1972, has two main features; it makes it an offence to deposit any poisonous, noxious or polluting wastes in circumstances which might give rise to an environmental hazard and introduces notification procedure under which local authorities and river authorities must be advised of the nature and quantity of certain commercial wastes being removed from, or being deposited, in their areas. The notification procedure came into force on 3rd August, 1972, and three days clear notice of intention to remove or deposit is required.

The purpose of the Act is clear; to prevent indiscriminate dumping of toxic wastes, and arose from the publicity given in the national press of instances of this kind. Unfortunately, it gives no powers to local authorities of right of entry to land nor to take samples of substances removed or deposited.

Fortunately, no indiscriminate dumping of these kinds of wastes had taken place in the rural district; the two points of deposit were the Council's Benson Sands Tip and a privately-owned tip, both at Ewelme, and both used for some time prior to the introduction of the Act.

The criteria for assessing that deposited waste is liable to give rise to an environmental hazard rests either on evidence that it will subject persons or animals to material risk or on evidence that it will threaten the pollution or contamination (whether on the surface

or under ground) of any water supply. Few problems arise for avoiding material risk by physical contact with these wastes but deciding the question whether water supply is threatened - and the emphasis is on supply and whether it is a potential supply - may give rise to an excess of temerity or timidity. The answers to questions such as the interaction of different toxic wastes, their residual effects, geological flows, and so on, need scientific opinion. For this reason, the Council are inviting the Harwell Atomic Energy Research Unit to carry out a survey of their Benson Sands Tip; they are of the opinion that a similar survey should be made of the commercial tip.

The Council have received 64 notifications from 39 firms to deposit industrial waste at the commercial tip at Ewelme, and 3 notifications from one firm to deposit at their Benson Sands Tip. They have, in co-operation with the Thames Conservancy (the River Purification Authority), refused to permit deposits in 40 cases, permitted 25 deposits including 10 initial and 6 renewed season ticket permissions of three months duration, and not objected in 3 cases to the deposit of exempted material.

THE RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT 1960

The Department of the Environment have submitted copies of certificates of registration, under Section 1 of the Act, in respect of persons who occupy premises in the Rural District : one each at Clifton Hampden, Littlemore and Stanton St. John, at which radioactive substances are kept and used.

The Act provides for the execution by local authorities of functions enacted elsewhere in connection with premises in which there are radioactive substances, articles or parts of premises, but gives no right of entry nor any duty or power to deal with such attributes.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 - SECTIONS 75 AND 76

New litter receptacles have been provided at Chalgrove (2); Chinnor (1); Little Milton (1); Littlemore (6); and Watlington (2); and defective bins have been replaced.

Notices to provide regulation dustbins have been served on householders as occasions arise.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, 1936-1961 - NUISANCES

The principal cause of nuisance is still unsatisfactory drainage, but occasionally a curiosity emerges which presents a problem of induction:

A complaint was received from a resident of Littlemore of the smell of fumes in his premises. The Gas Board investigated but reported it not to be gas. The smell appeared to be some form of solvent and by using Draegar Detection Tubes it was identified as toluene or Xylene. The readings were high, rapidly reaching explosive concentration, and the fumes were evidently toxic since they were having a mild effect on the occupants. As these substances are used as cleaning agents and the site was originally a commercial laundry it was feared that a quantity of residual material had been left in the site, but the former proprietor was satisfied that no negligence of this kind had occurred. The fumes were traced to the house next door, whose occupants were absent, by tests through the letter box and under the garage door, but attempts to find the tenants were unsuccessful.

A Court order was given to afford entry and it was discovered that in the garage, which had direct access to the kitchen, a Land Rover was stationed which had a badly leaking petrol tank. The fumes were filtering through the party cavity wall at an area under the staircase which had not been plastered. It is thought that toluene is added to the petrol as a degreaser and that the smell of this substance persisted after the petrol fumes had dissipated. Undoubtedly, the concentration of petrol could have created an explosion and both residents were extremely grateful for the detective work and happy conclusion.

The usual crop of nuisances from overflowing cesspools or septic tanks occurred; grievously from two houses at Garsington, one at Waterperry and one at Warborough. The one at Warborough was extending a nuisance being caused by the silting up of a surface water ditch which was stagnant and offensive. A section of the ditch was cleared by the County Council and the remainder by the riparian owners.

The flows in lengths of private sewer at Benson and Old Marston were impeded by blockages. Both obstructions were removed but looking at such problems objectively one can foresee that the laying of private sewers across gardens of housing developments other than in the highways, and which the local authority are reluctant to adopt as public sewers, is likely to provide "a stick for the backs of future residents" when the local authority are required to secure the abatement of nuisances caused by blockages or defective private sewerage systems, and to present problems of attributing responsibility and recovery of costs of abatement to the local authority. The correct answer is to require developers to construct sewerage systems to the local authority's specification laid in the highway, but, failing this, the authority should either accept responsibility by adoption if they do allow other systems to be constructed or levy a rate on the estate residents for maintenance of their private systems by the authority.

A number of ditches at Tiddington are being polluted by overflows from septic tanks. To minimise this nuisance the property owners have been asked to cleanse their tanks from time to time, but until the scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for the village is constructed, which will also replace the inadequate temporary package unit, nuisances will recur.

The Council have recommended the execution of works in Wheatley which will clear refuse from waste land and storm water ditch adjoining a public footpath, piping in the ditch and fencing the land, the cost of which should be borne proportionately by the County, District and Parish Councils.

They have also required the abatement of a nuisance by repair of a dwelling at Culham, and asked the supplier of domestic fuel oil to premises at Littlemore to ensure that spillage of oil on the highway does not recur.

RENT ACTS 1965 AND 1968

Two complaints of alleged harrassment of tenants were received : one in respect of a sub-tenancy at Holton where the relationship between landlord and tenant was not ideal but the facts did not justify legal action. The tenant, an old person, is being afforded every assistance to ease the situation. The other case, of the tenancy of a caravan at Great Milton, related to a dispute over electricity charges. Meter readings did not show the charges were excessive but that the tenant was irresponsible in the use he made of the service.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

Number and Types of Food Premises in the Area:

Grocers and provision merchants and general mixed food shops including fruiterers and greengrocers				116
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	18
Dairies	...	...	...	8
Fish shops (wet)	...	...	...	3
Fish shops (dry)	...	...	...	4
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	10
Licensed premises	...	...	...	105
Canteen	...	...	...	7
School Canteen kitchens	...	...	...	13
Kitchens in local authority homes and training centres				6
Bakehouses	...	...	...	10
Food wholesale warehouses	...	...	...	12
TOTAL			...	312

Number and Types of Food Premises registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955:

Storage and sale of ice cream	...	148
Manufacture of sausages	...	12
Manufacture of pickled meats	...	2
Fish frying	...	4

POULTRY PROCESSING PREMISES

There are none of these premises in the Rural District.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND KNACKERS' YARDS

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the Rural District. The sole licensed knacker's yard is situated at Brook Street, Benson.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1958

Nine persons are licensed to slaughter or stun animals in a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard. Seven of these are employed at the knacker's yard at Benson and the two others carry out part-time slaughtering.

FOOD INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

Food is inspected and condemned either in response to notification or as a result of a routine visit to food premises. Unfit food is incinerated at the Council's refuse tips.

The following foods were inspected and condemned during the year:

<u>MEAT</u>		<u>POULTRY</u>	
Beef joints	150 lbs	Turkeys	755 lbs
Pork joints	180 lbs	Ducks	77 lbs

Lamb joints (Decomposition)	62 lbs
Pigs Liver	25 lbs
Frying Steak	10 lbs

(Breakdown of refrigeration
plant)

CANNED MEAT

Brisket beef	4 lbs
Pigs Liver	40 lbs
Chopped ham & pork	19½ lbs
Steak and kidney	1 lb
(Blown or leaking tins - decomposition)	

CANNED MEAT PRODUCTS

Luncheon meat	60 lbs
Corned beef	6 lbs
Stewed steak	35 lbs
Beef broth	11 oz
Meat stock	1 lb
Braised kidneys	12 oz
Ox tail soup	1 lb
(Blown or leaking tins - - decomposition)	

CANNED POULTRY

Chicken parts (Blown or leaking tins - decomposition).	28 lbs
--	--------

CANNED FISH PRODUCTS

Pink salmon	1 lb 14 oz
Pilchards	1 lb
Paste	8 oz.
(Blown or leaking tins - decomposition).	

CANNED VEGETABLES

Mixed vegetables	1 lb 3 oz.
Processed Peas	8. oz.
Carrots	17 lbs
Potatoes	60 lbs
Rhubarb	1 lb 2 oz
Beetroot	2 lbs 4 oz
Broad beans	1 lb
Peas	44 lbs
Peanuts	3 lbs 8 oz
(Blown or leaking tins - decomposition).	

CANNED OR PACKETED VEGETABLE PRODUCTS

Baked beans	15 lbs
Lentils	7 lbs
Pickles	12 oz.
Curried Beans	1 lb
Condensed cream soup	11 oz.
Beans in tomato sauce	6 lbs
Golden Wonder	1 lb 4 oz
(Blown or leaking tins or broken packets - decomposition and contamination).	

CANNED FRUIT

Grapefruit	16 lbs
Plums	7 lbs
Gooseberries	58 lbs
Blackcurrants	26 lbs 8 oz
Peeled Tomatoes	24 lbs
Stuffed Olives	6 lbs
Apples	6 lbs
Sliced Peaches	28 lbs
Bilberries	13 lbs
Prunes	1 lb
Oranges	1 lb 6 oz
Pears	15 oz
Pineapple pieces	17 lbs 10 oz
Apricots	1 lb
(Blown or leaking tins - decomposition)	

BOTTLED, CANNED OR PACKETTED FRUIT PRODUCTS

Marmalade	1 lb
Tomato juice	5 lbs
Dessicated coconut	21 lbs
Salted nuts	3 lbs 8 oz
Fruit cocktail	24 lbs 8 oz
Lemon slices	2 lbs 8 oz
Tomato paste	5 oz
Fruit salad	6 lbs 8 oz
Grapefruit juice	12 lbs 3 oz
Pineapple pulp	26 lbs
Orange juice	11 lbs 11 oz
Tomato soup	11 lbs 4 oz
Pineapple juice	5 lbs 9 oz
Apple and black- currant filling	14 oz
(Blown and leaking containers or broken packets - decomposition and contamination).	

CEREALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS

Corn flakes	12 oz.
Creamed rice	3 lbs
Castor sugar	5 lbs
Brown sugar	7 lbs
Demarara sugar	7 lbs
Granulated sugar	21 lbs
Flour	27 lbs
Ryvita	3 lbs 14 oz.
Spaghetti	1 lb 8 oz.
Sago pudding	1 lb
Ovaltine	2 lbs
(Broken packets - contaminated).	

SWEETS, CONFECTIONARY AND RELATED PRODUCTS

Minced Pies	13 oz.
Cadbury's Smash	11 lb
Butter Puffs	6 oz.
Suet Mix	7 lbs
Sweet Corn	1 lb 7 oz.
Hot Toast Savouries	15 oz.
Golden Syrup	7 lbs
(Blown or leaking tins and broken packets - contamination).	

BEVERAGES

Instant Coffee	4 lbs 3 oz.
Tea	5 lbs
Dried Milk	21 lbs
Evaporated Milk	12 oz.
Canned Beer	18 pints
(Blown or leaking tins or broken packets - contamination).	

SEASONINGS

Salt	84 lbs
(Broken packets - contamination)	

FROZEN FOODSDecomposed and unsaleable owing to failure of refrigeration plants

Meat and poultry and related products	...	21 lbs 5 oz.
Vegetables and vegetable products	...	38 lbs 14 oz.
Fruit and fruit products	...	8 oz.
Confectionary	...	11 lbs 5 oz.
Assorted ice cream, lollies and milk products	...	83 lbs 13 oz.

FOOD COMPLAINTS

Eleven complaints were received about food purchased by residents of the Rural District: four alleging that the food contained foreign matter; six about the presence of mould; and one of impairment of poultry by a leg lesion.

Foreign matter :

- (1) Two dead flies embedded in a loaf of bread purchased from retail bakery at Wheatley.
- (2) Round worm parasite (filaria bicolar) in portion of fried of fried fish (cod) obtained from Fried Fish and Chip shop at Watlington.
- (3) Small piece of fish membrane in packet of cod steaks bought at Lewknor store.
- (4) Nut and bolt in tin of Steak with onion and gravy pie filling purchased from Watlington store.

The Council's decisions in respect of the foregoing complaints resulted in the following action being taken :

Complaints nos. 1 and 4 : Letters were sent to the producers of the food expressing the Council's concern at these incidents, and pointing out that consideration would be given to the taking of legal proceedings should similar incidents occur in the future.

Complaints Nos. 2 and 3 : No further action was taken.

Food affected by mould :

- (1) 'Dairy Crest' fresh cream dessert obtained from store at Dorchester-on-Thames.
- (2) Egg and Bacon Pie purchased from Watlington Shop.
- (3) 1 lb. beef sausages sold from Horspath stores.
- (4) Beef steak and kidney pie purchased from Littlemore shop.
- (5) Pork pie with egg obtained at Watlington licensed hotel.
- (6) Cotswold minced steak pie sold by a Berinsfield supermarket.

The Council's decisions in respect of the foregoing complaints resulted in the following action being taken :

Complaint No. 1 : Legal proceedings were taken against the retailers of the food and they were fined £20 and ordered to pay an advocate's fee of £5.

Complaint No. 4 : Legal proceedings were taken against the producers of the food and they were fined £50 and ordered to pay an advocate's fee of £10.

Complaint No. 6 : Legal proceedings are being taken against the producer of the food.

Complaints Nos. 2, 3 and 5. Letters were sent to the retailers of the food expressing the Council's concern at these incidents, and pointing out that consideration would be given to the taking of legal proceedings should similar incidents occur in the future.

Complaints Nos. 2 and 3. : Letters were sent to the producers of the foods, in the case of No.2 expressing concern about the delay between production and delivery of the food, and in case No. 3 suggesting they consider an alternative method of coding.

Impairment of poultry by leg lesion :

A 6 lb. capon bought at a Watlington fish and poultry shop was found to contain a lesion in the leg when taken for consumption. Since the lesion could not have been observed without opening the joint, no further action was taken.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

The proprietors of the following premises in which major contraventions of the Regulations were found, have carried out the requisite works as stated :

- (a) Honey Factory at Ewelme : Honey being contaminated by aerial dust. Hoods fitted to honey vats and certain internal surfaces rendered and tiled.

- (b) Restaurant at Benson : Dirty wall surfaces, shelving, extraction fan, draining board, cutlery; absence of wash hand basin, towels, hand cleaning materials, and first-aid kit; defective stove flue. The majority of these items have been remedied - most call only for the normal hygienic practices - internal surfaces tiled and certain deficiencies remedied. Improvements to the dry store structure are in hand.
- (c) Butcher's shop at Dorchester-on-Thames : Dirty walls, floors, shelving and W.C. compartment; defective concrete floor and ceiling; missing wall tiles; and absence of wash hand basin with hot and cold water supplies. All these contraventions have been remedied.
- (d) Cafe at Wheatley : Dirty walls, floors and ceilings; defective roof; interior congested with superfluous equipment; exterior untidy. Much of the work completed has made the premises reasonably satisfactory, but the design and nature of the building makes it virtually impossible, even with first-class management, to prevent some contraventions recurring. The proprietors are seeking new premises.
- (e) Hotel restaurant at Dorchester-on-Thames : Accumulations of filth and dirt over walls, ceilings, and equipment; impaired decorations. A general clean up, redecoration and structural works have been carried out.

HOME AND WATER SAFETY

The Bullingdon Home Safety Committee was constituted on 11th January, 1971, to promote the prevention of accidents in the home. It consists of seven members of the District Council; co-opted members from one-quarter of Parish Councils, progressively appointed; representatives of the County Health Department; and the power to co-opt others as and when necessary.

The functions of the Committee, and their terms of reference, were extended on 23rd January, 1973, to include the safety and protection of persons liable to be involved in accidents arising from their proximity to water, such as use of swimming baths, and rivers and other waterways for bathing, fishing, boating and similar pursuits.

They have joined membership of the South East Area Group 7 of Home Safety Committees which represent a considerable number of Committees in eight counties.

Fatalities and injuries in the home result mainly from poisoning, falls, burns and scalds, suffocation and choking, and since the most likely persons to suffer are children and old people, the activities of the Committee has been directed, in particular, to these persons, first, by teaching how home accidents may be avoided, secondly, by suggesting methods of self-instruction, and, thirdly, by showing how assistance can be given after the accidents have happened.

The Committee considered that instruction could be given through their public health inspectorate to schools, women's organisations, and old people's clubs, and they have introduced a syllabus of personal talks, slides and tape recordings, posters, pamphlets, and stickers. They have also set competitions and set up campaigns which will instill self enquiry; consulted public utility authorities on means of securing safe services in the home; vet designs of new Council Houses and advise on eliminating structural hazards; and have suggested to senior schools that they themselves should undertake to produce new slides and tape recordings for future instructional use.

Competition quizzes based on posters called 'Hazard House' or 'Careless Cottage', which have to be coloured and contain a number of home accidents, have been held at Beckley, Sandhills and Watlington Primary Schools. The winners were invited to receive their prizes at the Council Offices with full publicity by Radio Oxford and the local press. Similar competitions are being undertaken at Berinsfield, Chinnor and Little Milton Primary Schools, and an essay project by elder children of Sandhills Primary School.

The Heads of Holton Park Comprehensive School and Lord Williams School, Thame, have agreed to participate in a photographic competition and project to provide the Committee with a more suitable series of slides for use with future talks on home safety. It has been suggested that it would be appropriate if the slides have a local flavour and be in two series: one for the elderly and the other for young mothers and children.

The Dorchester Rangers have been presented with the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award for Home Safety. Tuition was given in home safety extending over six weeks and the participants had to keep a diary of hazards they encountered and say how they could be prevented; to produce a scrapbook, culled from any source but preferably of their own creation, to show their interest in the subject and understanding the reason for its production.

A number of old people's clubs in the rural district wish to compete in similar but more suitable projects for their years.

A campaign for the collection of old medicines has been suggested, extending over the area of Bullington and Thame, covering a period of approximately one week, in which the local press and Radio Oxford should be invited to join as well as the respective Home Safety Committees and the County Public Health Department. Some form of house-to-house collection would be arranged and disposal made by means of the bulk container service of the local authority. Appropriate campaign posters would be circulated beforehand.

About 40 talks on home safety, with the help of slides and tape recording, which last about 20 minutes, have been given to women's organisations and old people's clubs. A special talk was given to the Wardens of Old People's accommodation who are employed by the District Council, and it has been suggested that a series of these talks should be given in the various community rooms not only to the old people accommodated by the Council but to others in the locality.

The local publicity media is being supplied with copies of the Committee minutes so that the maximum publicity is given, in addition to that conveyed on posters, pamphlets and stickers produced by R.O.S.P.A. and suitable for exhibition in places such as doctors' waiting rooms, village halls, parish and school notice boards and large caravan sites. It has been proposed that a mini exhibition should be held.

Some concern has been expressed over the number of accidents arising from electrocution due to dilapidated wiring of houses. The Southern Electricity Board have produced pamphlets, copies of which are being sent to Old People's clubs, which offer free inspection and estimate of the wiring of houses and extended credit terms for rewiring. The Eastern Electricity Board, although they do not offer a free initial inspection, do offer a standard inspection at a reasonable charge.

The Committee feel that the new District Authority be recommended, after their election in June 1973, to extend the activities of this service to the whole of the new district.

HENLEY RURAL DISTRICT

Chief Public Health Inspector:

H.G.T. BOLTON, M.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

BRIAN READ

Additional Public Health Inspector:

G. WALLACE

Easby House, Northfield End,
Henley-on-Thames.

RG9 2JW

Tel: Henley 2672

HENLEY RURAL DISTRICT

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water Supplies

During the year a procedure for regular weekly sampling of mains water was begun by the Public Health Inspector in co-operation with the Thames Valley Water Board.

The following table shows the estimated number of dwelling houses supplied from public mains, and stand-pipes.

	Mains Water direct to house		Mains Water by standpipe	
	Houses	Pop.	Houses	Pop.
BIX	258	820	-	-
CHECKENDON	319	975	-	-
CROWMARSH	537	1705	-	-
EYE & DUNSDEN	1587	4660	-	-
GORING	1231	3730	-	-
GORING HEATH	432	1210	-	-
HARPSDEN	156	520	-	-
HIGHMOOR	135	410	-	-
IPSDEN	112	330	-	-
KIDMORE END	742	2320	-	-
MAPLEDURHAM	750	2420	-	-
NETTLEBED	252	880	-	-
NUFFIELD	200	695	-	-
PISHILL-STONOR	113	385	2	6
ROTHERFIELD GREYS	125	410	-	-
ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD	486	1495	-	-
SHIPLAKE	672	1775	-	-
SONNING COMMON	1307	3945	-	-
SOUTH STOKE	150	465	-	-
STOKE ROW	237	730	1	2
SWYNCOMBE	87	320	-	-
WHITCHURCH	291	880	-	-
WOODCOTE	721	1360	-	-
TOTALS	10900	32440	3	8

HENLEY RURAL DISTRICT

PEST CONTROL

The council continued to use the services of a pest control company to deal with the treatment of rat and mice infestations and with wasps nests in domestic premises.

During the year 205 rat infestations were treated, 56 mice infestations and 104 wasp nests were destroyed.

The number of rat and mice infestations reported during the year showed virtually no change on those for the previous year. The demand for the destruction of wasp nests however was less than half that for 1971 (241).

Complaints were also received about other pests, especially fleas, carpet beetles, swarming flies (when hibernating), grey squirrels and ants. Advice was given by the Public Health Inspector on the best way of eradicating these pests.

LITTER AND STREET CLEANING

Dumping of rubbish by the roadside continues to be a problem, especially on the outskirts of towns. The Council has continued to operate a free service for bulky items of refuse and the demand for this is heavy and increasing.

The rural district council reimburses parish councils which arrange a pavement cleaning service. The following parish councils now take advantage of this facility and employ men on a part time basis for street cleansing duties:-

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Sonning Common | 2. Goring |
| 3. South Stoke | 4. Crowmarsh |
| 5. Stoke Row | 6. Eye and Dunsden |

HENLEY RURAL DISTRICT

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1970

The number of premises subject to the regulations and grouped according to trades are:-

Retail food shops (except where included below)	68
Butchers	7
Bakehouses	2
Cafes (inc. restaurants but not pubs, hotels)	4
Hotels, public houses	47
School kitchens	14
Canteens in factories and offices	5
Boarding houses, nursing homes, hospitals clubs	8
Domestic premises used for catering business	1

These premises have been inspected at intervals throughout the year, and compliance with the regulations has been secured without the need for court proceedings.

HENLEY RURAL DISTRICT

Sewerage of the District

Main Drainage

The Whitchurch and Checkendon, Stoke Row sewerage schemes have now been completed and the scheme for Crays Pond and Exlade Street should be completed shortly.

The sewerage of Sonning Eye and Dunsden, Playhatch and Dunsden Green has now commenced and should be completed in the Autumn of 1973.

The South Stoke scheme is due to start in the spring of 1973 and it is hoped to make a start on the Binfield Heath area in the summer.

Further preparatory work has been done on the plans for the main drainage of Bix, Assenden, Harpsden and the fringe areas of Reading with a view to a start being made in late 1974.

A feasibility study has been made on the sewerage of areas around Sonning Common as part of a comprehensive scheme to include extensions to the existing Sonning Common sewage disposal works, estimated to cost in the region of half a million pounds. In this scheme provision is made for the laying of sewers to serve the areas of Gallowstree Common, Kidmore End village and parts of the Parish of Rotherfield Peppard in the vicinity of Peppard and Kingwood Common.

The demand for the use of the council's cesspool exhausters continues to rise at a high rate, 8,234 loads being removed from premises in unsewered areas during the year as against 6,891 in 1971.

HENLEY RURAL DISTRICT

COMPLAINTS OF NUISANCE

197 complaints were received during the year on a variety of matters, the most unusual being from a lady who wanted the council to destroy the berries on the weeds along the hedgerow near her house because she considered them dangerous to her small children.

A number of complaints about noise, mainly barking dogs, were received, but none of these was considered to be a statutory nuisance.

During the autumn complaints were received about the fairly new practice of burning straw in fields instead of harvesting it.

The objections to straw burning are in three groups:

1. Many people find the smoke objectionable.
It is said that in some cereal growing areas the air is smoky for several consecutive days as each farmer fires his straw during dry weather spells.
2. The neighbours suffer damage to hedgerows and trees and worry that even buildings might take fire. The Oxfordshire Fire Department says that in the quarter July - September they were called out to 57 farms out of 2,037 in the County. On 3 occasions straw burnt as far as barns and on another 3 standing crops were burnt.
3. Conservationists claim that extensive fires on land have a detrimental effect on wild life and will disrupt a natural balance in the countryside. It is also claimed by some that burning destroys organic matter in the soil and is therefore harmful to soil structure and fertility.

At a local level very little can be done by the council or an aggrieved individual unless he has clearly suffered damage to his property and can claim damages.

The law of nuisance cannot usually be invoked when the matter complained of is "fleeting or evanescent". It has also been held that nuisance does not include ordinary acts such as "burning weeds... and other instances which could be nuisances if done wantonly or maliciously".

After the council's General Purposes Committee had considered this matter carefully, the council decided that the best prospect for a satisfactory solution to the problem was to intensify efforts to see that the National Farmers' Union Straw Burning Code was observed by all farmers in future.

HENLEY RURAL DISTRICT

HOUSING

Council Housing

During the year 24 new houses and bungalows have been completed and a further 61 units of accommodation are due for occupation during 1973. Further housing schemes are planned at Sonning Common, Shiplake, Crowmarsh, Caversham Park, South Stoke and Checkendon.

The Council has implemented the Housing Finance Act by introducing a new Rent Rebate Scheme and by fixing a "Fair Rent" for all their dwellings. Progression to these new rent levels will be by annual increases. As from January 1st 1973 under this legislation, the rent rebate allowances have become available to private tenants. Full details are available from the Council's Treasurer.

Demand for Council Housing

The renewal of the housing register at the end of the year showed a total demand of 413 applications. The list has been analysed and is made up as follows:-

Caravan Occupiers	20
Families without separate homes	35
Families sharing Council cottages with one elderly relative	9
Single persons without separate homes	45
Tenants of private houses	147
Tenants of tied houses	157
	<hr/>
	413
	<hr/>

Caravan Occupiers

(a) Single persons	5
(b) Couples without children	5
(c) Couples with one child	10
(d) Couples with two or more children	-
	<hr/>
	20
	<hr/>

Applicants without separate homes

(a) Single persons	45
(b) Families sharing Council houses with one relative who is the tenant	9

HENLEY RURAL DISTRICT

(c) Families sharing privately owned houses with one other person	6
(d) Couples without children	11
(e) Couples with one child	12
(f) Couples with two or more children	6
	<hr/>
	89
	<hr/>

Tenants of private houses (147)

The reasons given for wanting a Council house can be summarised as follows:

(a) Insecurity, owner wants possession	21
(b) Lack of amenities, usually drainage	23
(c) House too large (elderly applicants)	32
(d) House too small	7
(e) Isolated house	6
(f) Rent more than £4 weekly (too high in relation to income)	4
(g) Other reasons or no reason given	54
	<hr/>
	147
	<hr/>

Tenants of tied houses (157)

As in previous years the total is shown in the various occupational groups, those applicants near retirement being listed separately:

<u>Type of Work</u>	<u>Tied Tenants</u>	
	<u>Under 60</u>	<u>60 or Over</u>
Agricultural, Forestry	33	14
Gardening	16	12
Domestic	14	5
Other	51	12
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	114	43
	<hr/>	<hr/>

ACTION UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS

Slum Clearance

Action was taken in respect of four houses considered by the Council to be unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered so fit at reasonable expense. Notices under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 were served on the owners and in each case an undertaking was accepted that the house would not be used for human habitation until rendered fit.

HENLEY RURAL DISTRICT

Improvement of Cottages - Housing Act, 1964

The Council have made no improvement areas but it is still possible for the tenant of a dwelling which is not in an Improvement Area to require the local authority to exercise its powers under the 1964 Act. By this procedure improvements can be brought about compulsorily.

Five representations were received from tenants during the year. No immediate improvement notices were served by the Council but four undertakings to improve were accepted and in one case negotiations for purchase by the Council were commenced.

Since the commencement of this Act the undermentioned cases have been dealt with:

Number of applications received	...	27
Cottages improved by private owners	...	12
Cottages purchased by the Council and improved	...	4
Not considered capable of improvement at reasonable expense or withdrawn	...	3
Undertakings given, work in progress	...	4
Purchase negotiations in progress	...	4

Housing Act, 1969 - Rent of dwellings in good repair

This part of the Act introduces a new system of governing the rents of privately rented dwellings which have been brought up to a satisfactory standard. Controlled tenancies may be converted or regulated where the qualifying standard is attained; the rent is determined under the Rent Act, 1968.

During the year 10 applications were made for Qualification Certificates and were dealt with as under. In some cases the owner was asked to carry out some minor repair work and these were attended to before the Certificate was issued. In general however the standard of maintenance of the houses concerned has been good:

Number of Applications received	...	10
Number of Qualification Certificates issued	...	4
Applications withdrawn or not complying with the provisions of the Act	...	6

PLOUGHLEY RURAL DISTRICT

Chief Public Health Inspector:

B.P. GARROD, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

R.M. CLAYTON, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

P. RAYBOULD, M.A.P.H.I.

C.S. ROTHERY

(Appointed 1st May, 1972)

Ploughley Rural District

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

WATER SUPPLY

383 houses, excluding married quarters, were connected to a mains water supply during the year

Samples

124 specimens of water from private bores and wells were examined and 33% of the samples showed danger to health. Where unsatisfactory results were obtained, the supply was subsequently sampled after action had been taken to remedy the cause of pollution until good results were obtained.

The following is a table showing the number of dwellinghouses and number of population supplied from public water mains direct to the house:-

PARISH	Mains Water Direct to House	
	Houses	Population
Ambrosden	413	1786
Ardley	210	750
Arncott	142	660
Begbroke	197	741
Blackthorn	237	688
Bletchington	295	1012
Bucknell	80	330
Caversfield	323	1123
Charlton-on-Otmoor	122	418
Chesterton	202	710
Cottisford	54	184
Fencott & Murcott	53	172
Finnere	82	291
Fringford	152	468
Fritwell	192	625
Godington	13	40
Gosford & Water Eaton	576	1990
Hampton Gay & Poyle	50	188
Hardwick-with-Tusmore	13	34
Hethe	99	298
Horton-cum-Studley	138	484
Islip	233	750
Kidlington	3008	11190
Kirtlington	230	788
Launton	369	1220
Lower Heyford	146	448
Merton	80	280
Middleton Stoney	88	275
Mixbury	79	244
Newton Purcell-with-Shelswell	31	86
Noke	47	152

Floughley Rural District

PARISH	Mains Water Direct to House	
	Houses	Population
Oddington	25	92
Piddington	106	463
Shipton-on-Cherwell & Thrupp	106	415
Somerton	75	236
Souldern	137	424
Stoke Lyne	47	146
Stratton Audley	93	332
Upper Heyford	465	1617
Wendlebury	114	389
Weston-on-the-Green	165	562
Yarnton	613	2154
TOTALS	*9900	+55,255

* At end of year

+ Estimated mid-year population

There is an estimated caravan population of 300 supplied with mains water.

Swimming Baths

There are two swimming baths in the district used by the public; one in the grounds of an hotel and one at a motel. Together with a bath at a private school, these have continuous circulation equipment for filtration and chlorination.

Two samples were taken from the baths during the year, and both were found to be satisfactory.

Many of the village schools now have their own small swimming pools and some of these received visits in addition to sampling by the County Council.

SEWERAGE

Schemes for Somerton, Upper Heyford, Lower Heyford and Bucknell are under construction.

Tenders have been invited for schemes at Noke and Mixbury.

Schemes have been prepared for Stoke Lyne, Hardwick and Cottisford.

159 new connections to the sewer were made during the year as follows:-
Piddington (59); Arncott and Bletchington (16 each); Ambrosden and Islip (8 each); Souldern (7); Blackthorn and Chesterton (6 each); Merton and Weston-on-the-Green (5 each); Fringford (4); Ardley, Finmore and Horton cum-Studley (3 each); Begbroke and Launton (2 each); Bucknell, Fritwell, Hethe, Kirtlington, Stratton Audley and Yarnton (1 each).

Ploughley Rural District

HOUSING

During 1972, 16 dwellings were erected by the Council, 15 bungalows and one warden's house at Bletchington.

A total of 208 private enterprise houses were built during the year:-
Chesterton (82); Kidlington (33); Begbroke (18); Bletchington (15); Ardley (14);
Merton (8); Piddington (6); Mixbury and Souldern (4 each); Islip and Middleton
Stoney (3 each); Arncott, Bucknell, Charlton-on-Otmoor, Finmere and Launton
(2 each); Blackthorn, Hampton Gay & Poyle, Horton-cum-Studley, Kirtlington, Hethe,
Noke, Stratton Audley, Upper Heyford and Weston-on-the-Green (1 each).

In addition there are 270 private enterprise houses under construction.

Caravans

There is one licensed caravan site for 44 caravans. A further 76 other caravans on individual site licences are scattered throughout the district.

Overcrowding and Housing Demand

There is little overcrowding by the official standards, although these are very low. At the end of 1972 there were 380 applicants for Council Houses - an increase of 61 over the 1971 figures.

Housing Act, 1957 - Section 16

Demolition Orders served	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Closing Orders made	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Undertakings accepted not to use for human habitation							..	..	-
" " to reconstruct	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Houses Demolished	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied, all by owners:

After informal action by L.A.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	182
After formal action under Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
After formal action under Public Health Acts in default of owner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
After formal action under:									
Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
After formal action under Housing Act, 1957 in default of owner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Section 24, Housing Act, 1957 (Demolition Orders revoked)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

Ploughley Rural District

Housing Act, 1969

Improvement Grants

Number of applications for Discretionary Grants received	..	..	69
" " " approved by Local Authority	..	..	69
" " " for Standard Grants received	..	..	15
" " " approved by Local Authority	..	..	15

Rent Acts 1957 and 1965

No action was necessary during the year under these Acts.

Housing Act, 1969 - Section 44

The following applications for qualification certificates were received during the year:-

For dwellings provided with standard amenities:-

No. of applications received	..	..	..	..	..	13
" " " granted	..	..	..	..	..	3
" " " under consideration	..	..	..	..	..	10

For dwellings not yet provided with standard amenities:-

No. of applications received	..	..	..	..	..	1
" " provisional certificates granted	..	..	..	..	..	1
" " applications under consideration	..	..	..	..	..	-

RODENT AND PEST CONTROL

A full return, under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, has been made to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the year ended 31st December, 1972, and the following is a summary:-

Properties inspected for first time during year	..	..	..	245			
Number of inspections, including re-inspections	..	..	..	1394			
Properties infested with rats	..	..	..	..	..	..	180
Properties infested with mice	..	..	..	..	..	..	67
Treatments carried out	971
Treatments against insect and other pests	..	..	..	..	..	..	128

The Ministry agreed in 1970 to a three-year exemption for baiting of foul water sewers. However these have been inspected at various times and no trace of rats has been found.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

There are 137 premises registered under the Act, and during the year 383 inspections were made of such premises. Informal notices were served in the case of 44 premises in which various contraventions were found.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

There are four Animal Boarding Establishments in the district. A high standard of cleanliness is maintained at these premises to prevent infectious or contagious disease, and the operators of the Establishments have co-operated with the Council's Officers in every way to achieve this. No problems have arisen with these establishments.

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 & 1936

There are 95 licensed petroleum spirit stores in the district.

A spillage of spirit occurred at one garage, which resulted in a successful prosecution with a fine of £30.00.

FOOD INSPECTION

There are two general slaughterhouses and a knacker's yard in the area. To give full protection to the public, a 100% inspection is made of all animals intended for human consumption.

Carcases of Meat Inspected and Condemned:-

	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed	375	18	32	926	1076	2427
Number inspected	375	18	32	926	1076	2427
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	7	8	9	8	18	50
Carcases of which some organ or part was condemned	44	9	1	12	55	121
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci	13.6	94.4	31.2	1.1	6.8	7.04
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some organ or part was condemned	-	-	-	-	1	1
Cysticercosis: Carcases of which some organ or part was condemned	2	-	-	-	-	2

Ploughley Rural District

Carcases of Meat Inspected and Condemned (cont.):-

	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Cysticercosis: Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-	1
Generalised & totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Method and Disposal of Condemned Food

Condemned meat is removed from the district and processed for fertilisers, manures and animal feeding; other condemned food is burnt and/or buried.

Precis of Condemned Food List

Total weight of food condemned:

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Stones	lbs.
Meat	4	15	0	1	2
Other Foods		12	2	1	3
TOTAL	5	7	2	2	5

In addition a quantity of assorted frozen foods and ice cream were condemned following the breakdown of refrigerated storage cabinets.

Poultry Processing

There are no large poultry processing premises within the district.

Several farmers and poultry men undertake slaughter on their own premises in the weeks prior to Christmas.

The need for vigilance is greatest at premises where carcasses are dressed prior to dispatch to the retailer. There being no licensing of such premises it is impossible to have knowledge of them all and in consequence there is the risk of poultry being prepared for the table under unsatisfactory conditions which remain undetected.

Number and Type of Food Premises in the Area

Grocers and General Food Shops	..	..	..	..	..	55
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	3
Butchers Shops	..	..	..	..	..	16
Confectioners	..	..	..	..	..	14
Public Houses	..	..	..	..	..	57
Off-licence premises	..	..	..	..	..	9

Ploughley Rural District

Licensed premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Cafes	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Wet Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Restaurants & Hotels	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
							<u>189</u>

All food premises, including shops and travelling shops, are regularly inspected.

At the end of 1971 and the beginning of 1972 we have instituted a campaign on food hygiene in public houses, hotels, restaurants, shops and warehouses. Several improvements have been, or will be, made to improve the conditions under the Regulations so as to raise the standard of equipment and methods. Illustrated lectures have been given to the staff and management of one hotel on food hygiene and handling of food and great improvements have been obtained. A systematic and constant series of inspections will be continued, at frequent intervals, to maintain a high standard throughout the food premises in the area.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970

Number of premises to which Regulation 18 applied	..	..	174
" " " fitted to comply with Regulation 18	..	150	
" " " to which Regulation 21 applied	..	163	
" " " fitted to comply with Regulation 21	..	163	

Premises Registered under Section 16 - Food and Drugs Act, 1955

For sale of ice cream	:	88	(inspections made	:	81)
Preparation & manufacture of sausages & cooked meats	:	7	(inspections made	:	116)
Preparation of fish by cooking	:	2	(inspections made	:	18)

Food and Drugs Act 1955

Three prosecutions were taken during the year for the sale of unfit food.

It was proved that the food, a savoury meat loaf, some sausages and a pasty, had been kept in stock beyond the manufacturer's recommended time.

It is to be hoped that retailers will realise the importance of stock rotation and no doubt the impending date marking of perishable foods will assist in solving the current problems.

Ploughley Rural District

The Oxfordshire Show provided a busy two days again this year. Unfortunately the caterers are rarely the same two years running, which precludes the achievement of any progressive rise in the standard of hygienic food handling.

Prior consultation with the main caterers and frequent inspection of their marquees ensures the maintenance of basic standards. However, once the show opens it is common to find traders selling open food, such as doughnuts, as an aside to their main stock in trade.

Invariably such traders operate under primitive, unhygienic conditions and claim complete ignorance of their legal obligations relating to food hygiene.

Banbury Steam Society's steam fair occupied the show ground for a further two days in June and may well become an annual event on this site.

Similar problems were encountered but the most frustrating experience was the frequent discovery of well equipped food vending vehicles, with facilities rendered ineffective by broken water heaters, lack of detergent and in the case of one splendidly fitted milk bar, a complete lack of water.

Market The privately sponsored market at Kidlington continues to flourish and the only two regular food traders operate under satisfactory conditions.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' WORK
DURING 1972

Number of complaints received	..	..	..	..	..	231
" " Notices served (informal)	..	..	..	..	..	245
" " " " (statutory)	..	..	..	..	..	2
Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	..	1
Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	..	-
Clean Air Act	..	..	..	..	..	1
<u>Number of Inspections</u>	6910					
Houses inspected:						
Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	..	51
Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	..	631
Re-visits to property under notice	..	..	..	..	..	2450
Interviews with owners	..	..	..	..	..	298
Complaints investigated	..	..	..	..	..	231
Houses disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	-

Ploughley Rural District

No. of Inspections (cont'd.)

Caravans	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	198
Water supplies and sampling	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	182
Drainage inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Public Cleansing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	200
Infectious diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	383
Factories and Workshops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	51
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Butchers Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	116
Animal Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	291
Ice cream premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	81
Catering Establishments	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	110
Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	507
Market Stalls & Delivery Vehicles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	136
Animal Boarding Establishments	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Pet Animals Act & Pet Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Petroleum Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	341
Dairies and Milk Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Food and Drugs Act (Unsound Food)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Betting & Gaming Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Rodent & Pest Control	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	63
Scrap Metal Dealers Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Air Pollution	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Civic Amenities	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	63
Deposit of Poisonous Waste Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Other Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	125

Ploughley Rural District

Number of Defects or Nuisances Abated

Dwellinghouses:

Repaired or made fit	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Provided with damp-proof course	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34
External walls pointed or rendered	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Eavesgutters & Rainwater pipes renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Chimneys or chimney stacks repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Yard paving repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29
Floors repaired, ventilated etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Plastered walls and ceilings repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41
Stairs repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Handrails provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Windows made to open, repaired etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
Doors repaired, re-hung or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Firegrates repaired, re-set or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Food stores provided, repaired etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
New sinks provided and fixed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38
Sink wastes repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Drains repaired or re-constructed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45
Waterclosets provided or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
Animals improperly kept	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Dustbins provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	211

OTHER DUTIES

The Department is also responsible for the maintenance of the Council house application list, which entails interviewing applicants for such accommodation and the keeping of all records of the circumstances of each case, for submission to the Council.

Under the Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, the Department is concerned with the inspection, testing of tanks and licensing of petroleum storage installations. There are at present 95 petroleum storage licences in force throughout the district; the total storage capacity licensed is just over a quarter million gallons.

Ploughley Rural District

The Department keeps the register of scrap metal dealers under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964; there are eight such dealers registered in the area.

The Public Health Inspectors also carry out inspections under the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act and The Licensing Act.

Public Cleansing is also the responsibility of the Department, a weekly collection of refuse being operated.

The scheme for street cleansing on the main shopping areas and car park of Kidlington has proved very satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

There are 57 factories in the area and in all of these Section 7 only is enforced by the Local Authority. 51 inspections were carried out in the period.

It was not necessary to institute legal proceedings under the Act.

Part VIII of the Act

There are two known outworkers in the District engaged in jewellery making.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	57	51	5	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	57	51	5	-

Ploughley Rural District

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found -

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prose- cutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness(S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5	1	-	-	-

